



X-MAS STAR

Wagner meets his fans at big switch-on



PAGE 4

FRESH ROLE

Actor shoots historic drama at museum



PAGE 6

Decision to select leader is imminent

THE proposed new leader of Dudley Council will be announced at a meeting tonight (Thursday).

The borough's controlling Labour group is meeting to discuss a successor for Councillor David Sparks.

Whoever takes on the job of Labour group leader will also be put forward as the next leader of the local authority.

Councillor Sparks announced his intention to step down from his role leading the party and the authority last week.

Focus

The controlling group plan to select a new leader after Councillor Sparks formally stands aside at the meeting.

Nominations have already been coming in ahead of the meeting taking place on Thursday evening.

Councillor Sparks was planning to relinquish his position as council leader at a meeting at Dudley Council House on Monday.

The Labour party, which have a majority in the council chamber, will then nominate its leader to head up the authority.

Councillor Sparks is giving up the role to focus his time as chairman of national body the Local Government Association.

Lenny lends voice to zoo

DUDLEY'S Lenny Henry has recorded a 'voice over' for a film to be screened at a £250,000 new attraction at Dudley Zoo.

A documentary is being created on the history of the zoo and its Tecton enclosures. It will be showcased when the zoo's new Tecton Interpretation Centre opens in the spring, featuring the dulcet Dudley tones of the popular actor and comedian who was made a Freeman of the borough last year.

SKATEPARK IS READY TO ROLL

Report by Heather Large

A GROUP behind a new £200,000 indoor skatepark have been congratulated in the House of Commons ahead of its official opening in Stourbridge this weekend.

Unit3Sixty in Mill Race Lane will be unveiled on Saturday after work to transform a former industrial unit is completed. BMX riding, skateboarding and scooter riding will be among the activities at the centre.

Stourbridge MP Margot James congratulated firefighter Gavin Pardoe and his team for their work on the project. She has been a keen supporter since its inception and helped the group secure funding from the Charity Bank, Sport England and other sources.

Festive fun is getting under way

THERE will be all the fun of the fair in Stourbridge town centre during Saturday afternoon, leading up to the Christmas lights switch-on at 5pm.

Events in Crown Square and Fountain Square from noon include free funfair rides, a visit by Father Christmas, plus a performance by The Empty Can, of Black Country Anthem fame, Granny Turismo, and the Black Country Ukulele Band. There will be a Christmas craft market and festive food festival.

Meanwhile, visitors can admire eye-catching festive decorations at a Christmas tree festival this Friday and Saturday.

St Thomas's Church on Market Street in Stourbridge will be filled with 30 colourful trees decorated by organisations and individuals. Those who have contributed trees include Pedmore Women's Institute, Wollaston Wives Group, The Children's Society and members of the congregation.

The festival aims to raise funds for on-going repairs to the church, which is Grade I listed and was built in 1736.

The festival is open from 10am to 5pm tomorrow (Friday) and from 10am to 7pm on Saturday 7pm. Mulled wine and mince pies will be available.

"I am absolutely delighted for Gavin and his team who, through sheer hard work and dedication, have built a magnificent new skatepark," she said.

"After Ramparts closed there was a real sense of loss among young people locally, and it has been wonderful to support the development of Unit3Sixty's fantastic facility."

Draw

"I know that the park will attract skaters from across the whole West Midlands, and I am very much looking forward to attending the official opening."

Rob Wilson MP, Minister for Civil Society, congratulated Gavin and his team, adding "I understand that it is a state-of-the-art skatepark that will draw in people from right across the West Midlands."

Tesco, Waitrose and the Ryemarket in Stourbridge and Black Country businessman Geoff Hill have also supported the scheme, which won the backing of Dudley Council's deputy leader, Councillor Pete Lowe.

The finishing touches are being put to the £200,000 indoor skatepark ahead of its opening on Saturday.

A 'skateboard jam' took place last week giving some skaters their first chance to try out the ramps. They also had the chance to watch professional skate teams in action.

Mr Pardoe said: "The building of the indoor skatepark is being carried out by 9C Ramps, famous for the Nike Tunnel Jam and the Nike Pool Party. No expense has been spared to ensure Unit3Sixty becomes the best indoor skatepark in the UK."

The scheme has received £10,000 from council-run community forums and a £75,000 loan from the Charity Bank.



Skatepark boss Gavin Pardoe with managers Richard Donlevy and Serena Pardoe

Calls from family lead to review of killing

A FRESH inquiry will be held in the wake of the killing of Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins.

NHS England confirmed a far-reaching review will take place following calls from the family of the 16-year-old, who was stabbed to death by paranoid schizophrenic Phillip Simelane on a bus in Birmingham while on her way to school.

An initial inquiry by Birmingham Cross City Clinical Commissioning Group said Christina's death could have been prevented after it emerged Simelane had been released from prison with no supervision only months before the attack.

The family called for the full facts and those responsible for failings to be identified.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris said a national inquiry would add 'more teeth' to demands for improvement.

NHS England say a fresh inquiry would be held after the Leasowes High School pupil's family wrote to them.

A spokesman said: "NHS England can confirm that a letter has been received and subsequently a decision has been made for a further review."

Simelane was detained indefinitely in a psychiatric hospital.

1,000 sign MP's petition

MORE than 1,000 people have put their name to a petition opposing plans to close Dudley Police Station to the public.

Under the proposal put forward by West Midlands Police, the front counter at the station in New Street will be shut.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin started a petition, both paper and online, urging police bosses to rethink the proposal.

■ Counter cuts — see page 5

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'Outrage' over fewer court cases

THE total number of cases heard by magistrates' courts in the Black Country and Staffordshire has fallen by more than 26 per cent in four years, figures reveal.

Courts dealt with 70,537 cases in 2013/14 compared with 95,439 in 2010/11.

National figures show that courts across England and Wales heard 2.8 million cases last year, nearly a mil-

lion less than in 2010. The figures were uncovered by Dudley North MP Ian Austin.

He said he is concerned by the statistics. Last year the Labour MP led a successful campaign to save Dudley Magistrates' Court from closure.

"We already know that a million crimes are not being recorded, the number of police is down by 13,000

and now these figures show that the number of cases taken to court is down by a quarter," he said.

"When I was fighting to save Dudley's local court from closure, magistrates told me police are dealing with serious cases, including domestic violence and rape, out of court. I think people will be outraged."

"Like me they want more police on the streets, more offenders going

to court and more criminals being put in jail."

The figures show the number of cases heard at Dudley during four years dropped from 15,552 to 10,502 — a reduction of around 32 per cent.

In 2010/11 a total of 98 courts shut down across the country, including Halesowen and West Bromwich Magistrates courts and Stourbridge county court.

Legal bid to tackle boy racers in court

A BID to secure a High Court injunction to tackle boy racers across the Black Country is due back before the courts next month.

West Midlands Police and Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Sandwell councils are seeking the High Court injunction.

The Black Country Route in Bilston and Moxley, Birmingham New Road on the border of Wolverhampton and Dudley, and Maybrook Industrial Estate in Brownhills have all been hotspots for the car cruisers.

Prison

The order would involve anyone suspected of breaching the ban being held in contempt of court, which can result in a sentence of up to two years in prison.

Police would also have their powers to convict motorists of offences such as driving without insurance, driving an unroadworthy vehicle or driving without due care and attention.

Police said the High Court injunction application will be heard again in court in December.

The process had started in the courts in September.

Officers said they would continue with patrols in those areas.

Unique card opportunity

FAMILIES have an opportunity to make their own unique Christmas card at a Christmas fair to be held at Overend Methodist Mission in Banner's Lane, Cradley on Saturday.

A photographer will be on hand with traditional nativity costumes and back-grounds to make quality individual cards at a cost of £3.

The fair will run from 11am until 2pm and entry is free.

Seasonal lunches, including hot turkey baps, will be available, and there will be stalls.

Speeders clocked

MORE than one in five drivers were caught speeding during a police operation in Halesowen.

Officers carried out the speed check for more than an hour in Hawne Lane in Belle Vale. Out of 58 vehicles 13 were found to be breaking the 30mph limit.

CONSERVATIVE MPs have hit back at union claims that they have links to private firms who could profit from Government reforms to the NHS, with Stourbridge's MP calling them a 'smear'.

Unite published a dossier saying there were 70 coalition MPs who had links to such firms.

In the Black Country they named Stourbridge MP Margot James who co-founded a public relations company, Shire Health Group, before selling it on to Ogilvy & Mather in a deal that was completed in the early 2000s, at least eight years before she became an MP.

Miss James was also once head of European healthcare for marketing parent company WPP Group.

Apartment proposed on High Street
FOUR apartments could be built on the site of a former community building in Wordsley, under plans lodged this week.

Dudley-based developer CCAD Limited wants to build the home next to the Rose and Crown pub in High Street.

A 19th century community centre was located at the site but was demolished around 20 years ago.

Traffic
UKIP Councillor Paul Brothwood, a Wordsley representative, said: "I welcome development but my concern would be about the additional traffic along the road, which is already busy."

"I'll be looking into the application more closely to work out the resulting impact it may have."

The developer submitted an outline planning application for the flats to Dudley Council.

It comes after a proposal for a nearby site was submitted last month, for 26 homes on the site of the former warehouse off Marine Crescent in Wordsley.

The council will make a decision on both applications in the coming months.

Elected

But the MP said she had no links to any private healthcare firms since before she was elected in 2010 and claimed that to suggest otherwise was a 'smear'.

Miss James said: "I resent this smear. I believe strongly in a taxpayer funded National Health Service. The implication that I would support anything else is totally erroneous."

"I have no links to private healthcare. I have previously been a director of an NHS trust and did not take a salary, despite being entitled to one."

Len McCluskey, Unite general secretary: "The Government had no mandate to sell-off our NHS, no one voted for it, yet they are doing just that. You have to ask yourself why?"

"Over £13 billion pounds of our local services have fallen into private hands."

A Conservative Party spokesman said: "Here in the Conservative Party, donations don't buy our leader, our candidates or our policies. If only the same could be said of Unite and the Labour Party."

Roof raised at Lye centre



John Polychronakis at the centre with Abdul Qadus and Vicar of Christ Church Simon

A COMMUNITY centre in Lye has been given a £3,500 makeover.

Lye Community Centre in Cross Walks Road was closed for five days for work on the ceiling to take place alongside the installation of new lights and redecoration.

With £1,000 of funding from Amblecote, Lye and Stourbridge North and £2,500 received from Pedmore, Stourbridge, Wollaston and Norton Forum, work was able to get under way.

Chairman of the association Abdul Qudas

said: "I would like to thank the local councils and authorities for their generosity. I am really grateful for their support."

As well as work on the roof, painters and decorators are also giving the venue a facelift and the centre is being kitted out with new tables, chairs and a computer centre. Mr Qudas added: "Everything will be completed by Christmas. We will be holding an event for the grand opening and Dudley Chief Executive John Polychronakis will be attending before his retirement."

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Probe into death of man, 28, on a bus

THE Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is to investigate the actions of officers after a Dudley man died on a bus in Wolverhampton

The IPCC is looking into the actions of police and a civilian staff member regarding the death of 28-year-old Tony Jones on a bus outside the city's main police station in the early evening of Friday, October 17.

The driver of the number one Dudley-to-Tettenhall service diverted the vehicle to the Bilston Street station due to concerns about Mr Jones, who is said to have collapsed on board.

IPCC spokesman Neil Coyte said at this stage investigators had established that the driver parked the bus outside and went in to request assistance to deal with the situation.

Mr Coyte said the driver returned to the counter at 6.36pm and ten minutes later he was joined by a passenger, and the bus driver called an ambulance.

Eyewitnesses say a female passenger came in shouting: "Help, help, he's not breathing."

Paramedics tried to resuscitate Mr Jones but he was declared dead at the scene.

Church holds tree festival

A DISPLAY of decorated Christmas trees will herald the festive season at a church this weekend.

Volunteers at St Mary's Church, in Kingswinford, are busy preparing for the annual Christmas Tree Festival.

There will also be stalls.

The event will take place at the church on Saturday between 10am and 4pm and on Sunday from 11.30am to 4pm.

Refreshments will be served in the church centre.

On Saturday, the Ladies Singers choir will also perform in the church.

Van hits post box

A DRIVER escaped with minor injuries when his van smashed into a post box in Netherton at around 5.30am on Saturday.

Two vans collided at the junction of Griffin Street and Marriott Road, and one hit the post box. Neither motorist was injured.

Black Country TV is set for new year arrival

TELEVISION for the Black Country could start to be broadcast from February next year.

Kaleidoscope TV, which is being run by Stourbridge-based Chris Perry and former ATV presenter Mike Prince, has been awarded the local TV licence for the area, and also cover Birmingham and Solihull.

Mr Perry said that Walsall was among four sites — the other three are in the Aston area — where the new company is looking to have its studios.

Ofcom's broadcast licensing committee has awarded the licence to Kaleidoscope TV following the collapse of City TV earlier this year. The media regulator has given the licence on condition it launches the new digital service on Freeview before the end of February.

Kaleidoscope's commitments include an initial 41 hours of local programmes a week, including a 90-minute breakfast show, news at noon and a half-hour programme of news at 6pm and 10pm.

Kaleidoscope director Chris Perry owns half of the company with the other half owned by Mr Prince, who was to have been City TV's programme controller.

Name

Mr Prince, who lives in Birmingham, said the name of the new station was yet to be announced.

He said: "It is a holding company for the new TV channel, the name of which has yet to be announced. There are several names

on the shortlist. It will serve Birmingham and the Black Country. We want to provide local contents for all the towns in the area.

"We are looking to start the service on February 28 and possibly do test transmissions leading up to that date.

"We are very excited and welcome the opportunity to deliver a TV service for the Black Country, Birmingham and Solihull. We have got a lot of work to do leading up to the launch and a few key decisions will be made within the next couple of weeks."

Environment bosses to talk to energy-from-waste firm

AN ENVIRONMENT watchdog opposed to a proposed waste recycling plant says it will open talks with the company behind the controversial scheme.

Clean Power resubmitted a plan to build the facility on land off Moor Street in Brierley Hill but it has received an objection from the Environment Agency.

The agency, which is also considering a permit application to operate the plant, said the location is unsuitable with housing 50 feet from the proposed site boundary.

It also fears the short distance from homes will open potential for complaints over odour and dust from the site, which would include two organic waste digestion tanks.

In a letter sent to Dudley Council, the agency said it would meet officers and Clean Power representatives to discuss the objection.

The firm's agents Icen Projects had written to the council asking for help in solving the problem posed by the agency's opposition to the scheme.

The move marks another twist for the proposal, which was first unveiled two years ago.

Following a public consultation, the firm lodged a planning application with Dudley Council, which was then thrown out by councillors over odour concerns. The plans have been revived but with air lock controls to tackle the smell issue.

Below average complaints

JUST over 400 complaints were lodged with Dudley Council over a six month spell. But the number of issues that people had with the local authority was less than the average amount received by other councils.

The authority received 405 complaints from April to October, the equivalent of 5.76 complaints per 10,000 people. The average for comparable authorities is 9.87 complaints for every 10,000 people.

By Alex Ross

The Say No To Waste - SNOW - group are objecting because of concerns over extra lorry traffic being brought to the area.

The Wordsley School off Brierley Hill Road has also objected.

The company says the plant would process about 195,000 tons of waste a year, producing energy for up to 10,000 homes and creating more than 30 jobs at the plant.

The firm has also submitted a permit application to the Environment Agency but the agency says more details are needed.

Harriet Templar-Vasey, of the Environment Agency, added: "We've assessed the application and we feel that it does not contain enough detail for us to be able to make a decision.

"We have produced a detailed list of information that we will require and will be placing it onto our public register once issued to the applicant."



'Voice of the balls' Alan Dedicoat attends a Children in Need fundraising quiz in Kinver

Voice of the balls helps out with quiz

HIS dulcet tones have heralded celebrations from thousands of winners of the National Lottery as he calls the numbers that can make you a millionaire.

But the 'voice of the balls' Alan Dedicoat is just as at home calling a quiz at a community centre to help another cause, the charity Children in Need.

The 59-year-old, who hails from Hollywood, the one near Bromsgrove, journeyed back to his home region for his annual appearance at the Kinver Rotary Club charity quiz.

Hundreds packed into the Edward Marsh centre in the village last week for the event which Mr Dedicoat has hosted for the past 14 years.

The National Lottery this month has celebrated its 20th anniversary having paid out an astonishing £53 billion in prize money, making more than 3,700 millionaires.

Mr Dedicoat, 59, joined the team soon after the lottery began and has been an integral part of the show's success. "I have been the voice that has made a lot of people happy but really it has been me that has been lucky to be a part of something so fabulous," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New menswear store at Merry Hill

A FASHION retailer will open a new store for men at Merry Hill shopping centre, creating 12 jobs.

London-based menswear store Open will welcome shoppers to its latest branch from Saturday.

Bosses say the store will celebrate the opening with a special event including free coffee and doughnuts for shoppers.

Open managing director Stephen Galea said: "We aim to deliver a simple no-nonsense approach to menswear."

Based in Barking, Open was founded in 2013.

Dial-a-ride bus service launched

A DIAL-A-RIDE community bus is being launched for residents in Hagley.

West Midlands Special Need Transport is working with Hagley Parish Council on the plans, following cutbacks to bus services in Worcestershire by the county council.

It will run every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday between 10 am and 2 pm.

Chairman of Hagley Parish Council Steve Colella will ask residents to register their interest in the scheme.

Old Hill to get lit up for the season

A CHRISTMAS lights turn-on will take place in Old Hill, near Halesowen, on Saturday

The event will be at the Holy Trinity Church, and will start from 3.30pm.

There will be children's fair rides, face painting and a variety of gift stalls as part of the event.

Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band will also perform. The lights will be turned on at 5pm.

Foundry has won an industry award

A BLACK Country foundry was among the winners in the Cast Metals Federation's annual awards.

Thomas Dudley received the company achievement award. Joint managing director Martin Dudley was presented with the accolade. The foundry in Birmingham New Road has invested £50,000 to create a new visitor centre.

Choral concert

A CHOIR is preparing to host its annual festive show. The Ellenvale Singers will be holding a Christmas concert at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on December 10 at 7.30pm with Sovereign Brass Band.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



A GROUP of cat owners have posted images on the internet allegedly proving that, if you create a circle on the floor, a cat will automatically sit inside it. So I made a circle of rope on the lounge floor and our old tabby pointedly stayed outside it and eventually sat down next to it. This proves the oldest feline rule of all. The more you want a cat to do something, the less it will.

I LOVE this email: "Receive an envelope from the NHS today containing two letters. One confirmed a hospital appointment. The other cancelled it. This is factual. I'm not clever enough to make this stuff up."

I HAVE an explanation for the curious case of the reader whose smartphone suddenly produced a text message from an optician shortly after she walked past the premises. It is something called proximity marketing. But all the descriptions I have seen stress that users have to opt-in to the system in order to receive messages. You don't recall opting-in? I would hazard a guess that it was somewhere in the terms and conditions, that vast mass of legal bumph that nobody ever bothers to read. In fact, let's have a National T&C Day when everybody refuses to sign up to anything on the internet without first thoroughly reading every single paragraph of the terms and conditions. The system would crash.

ON the bodge-it-yourself website DIYnot, the conversation turns to the difficulty of finding good tradespeople in London. A contributor in the capital writes enviously: "Outside London all the people are well suited to manual labour. They all wear wellingtons and drive to work on tractors." Yup, that's us.

STRANGE times. It used to be the rule that anyone becoming prime minister would be more unpopular during his term in Downing Street than at any other time in his life. How times change. Weird Ed is record-breakingly unpopular before he gets anywhere near No 10 and Tony Blair, the multi-millionaire bringer-of-peace, is even more detested today than when he was in residence.

THE tear-jerking Sainsbury's yuletide advert, set in the Christmas Truce of 1914, has obviously been working its sentimental magic. A contributor to one of the national newspapers implores us: "Should we not have compassion for the thousands of German soldiers, also sons, fathers and brothers?" I can see why someone might want to extend remembrance to the amiable, photogenic young German soldiers in the Sainsbury's ad. But what about their comrades who ransacked the Belgian city of Louvain, torched its priceless medieval library and executed hundreds of civilians, including women and children? Do they, too, deserve a place in our hearts and a chunk of our Sainsbury chocolate? And what about Hitler's death squads, or today's enemy, the Taliban and their fellow beholders, the Islamic State? Are they all to be remembered with compassion, too? If not, why not? The moment we start extending compassion to all our enemies is the moment we put our soldiers on the same moral level as Jihadi John. Not in my name, thanks.

INCIDENTALLY, there's not much evidence that a football match was played between German and British soldiers during the 1914 truce. Most accounts describe the soldiers exchanging gifts, showing each other family photos and talking about football. No matter. The image of a football match is so powerful that it is remorselessly passing into history without the need for any historical evidence. It should have happened, so let us tell the kids it did happen.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Fares to rise for ring and ride service

RING and ride buses are having their funding slashed by £700,000 with fares to use them in the evening set to double.

Council leaders in the West Midlands will give £7.8 million to run the service next year, down from £8.5m for the current year.

It will mean the £1 fare for using the service after 7pm will go to £2.

But the Sunday service scrapped

this year will be brought back, with a £2 charge.

The £1 for using it Monday to Friday before 7pm is fixed.

Around 22,000 people use the door-to-door minibuses, operated by charity West Midlands Special Needs Transport.

It runs across Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull.

Earlier this year the 60p fare went up to £1.

Councillor Richard Worrall, who had previously led a 56,000 name petition against cuts, said council and transport bosses were 'making the best of a bad situation'.

The Walsall councillor said: "There is not a lot else they could do. Any service that is not required by law is vulnerable to cuts."

The decision has been made by the leaders of the councils who sit on the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority.

A public consultation saw users plead for the service to be retained.

The service had been at risk of losing all its subsidy.

The review of the service was led by Councillor Darren Cooper, leader of Sandwell Council.

MPs back new deal for pubs despite warnings

MAJOR West Midlands pub companies have warned that hundreds of closures and thousands of job losses could result from changes to 'beer tie' deals with landlords — despite Dudley MPs backing the move to free pub tenants.

Chris Kelly, Conservative MP for Dudley South, was among 40 Tory and Liberal Democrat rebels who backed an amendment to the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill — PM David Cameron's first defeat on a Government law since the Coalition was formed.

It will mean pub tenants tied to big companies being able to demand a 'market rent only' agreement. Currently, tied pubs exclusively buy alcohol products from the parent company in return for reduced rent on the premises and other benefits.

Concerns

There have been widespread concerns about the abuse of the practice by big pub firms.

But Britain's biggest pub landlord, Solihull-based Enterprise Inns warned the vote to reform the 'beer tie' could lead to more pub closures and job losses.

The British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) said the vote was 'hugely damaging' and Staffordshire-based Punch Taverns said: "We believe that the amendment would be likely to have the effect of reduc-

By Daniel Wainwright

ing pub investment, reducing consumer choice and exposing tenants to higher fixed rents, reduced levels of support and greater risk of failure."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin backed the amendment which will allow landlords to buy beer on the open market rather than buying all their beer from the pub's owner.

It will also mean they can have their rent checked independently to ensure it is fair.

Labour MP Mr Austin said: "The Black Country is home to some of the best brewers in Britain like Holdens and Fownes, and brilliant pubs like the Courthouse, the Fountain and the Jolly Crispin."

"I've supported the Campaign for Real Ale's campaign for a 'Pubs Charter' from the start so landlords get a fair deal from big brewers which will help keep local pubs open."

X-tra special festive guest



Wagner meets fans during the festive lights switch-on, pic by Terrence R Alliband

THE X Factor star Wagner returned to his musical roots with a performance for hundreds of people at the turn-on of the Christmas lights in Dudley and Blackheath.

The Dudley-based Brazilian who became a tattooist in the town after his stint on the TV show sang his new Christmas single Switched On Like A Christmas Tree at the events on Saturday.

He appeared in Dudley town centre for the light turn-on at 5pm, then at Blackheath for the switch-on at 6pm.

He was joined in Dudley by dance act Granny Turismo, who entertained the crowds with their routines featuring shopping trolleys.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston, said: "The turn-out was fantastic. It was a real privilege to turn on the lights for the people of Dudley and I wish everyone a happy start to the festive season."

In Blackheath, Wagner joined Sandwell Mayor, Councillor Derek Rowley, to turn on the lights.

Veterans support scheme revealed

ARMED Forces veterans who are struggling to adjust to life after military service will get support through a new mentoring project.

National volunteering charity TimeBank is behind the scheme being organised locally through Dudley Council. Officials say veterans can face many challenges in adjusting to civilian life including financial hardship. The charity's Shoulder to Shoulder project provides regular one-to-one mentoring support.

A series of drop-in sessions will be held where veterans can get practical advice and talk through any issues they are facing.

The sessions are at Dudley Fire station, in Burton Road, on December 8, and in 2015 on January 8, February 4 and March 12. Session will also be held at Stourbridge Fire station, off Parkfield Road on December 22, January 22, February 16 and March 26. All sessions are between 10am and 1pm.

Andy Forster, programme manager at TimeBank's Birmingham office, said: "We're delighted that Dudley Council is funding this project to provide practical support for veterans across the borough."

Call 0121 236 253 for details.

Teen is hurt in collision

A TEENAGE boy was taken to hospital with facial injuries after being hit by a car in Dudley.

The crash took place on the Birmingham Road between the Castlegate roundabout and the Burnt Tree junction at 4pm last Tuesday. One lane was blocked as emergency services treated the teenager, who was later taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

On the same day, a man was injured when he was hit by a car which then hit the wall of Wizard and Glass Pub in Cradley Heath just after 9pm.

Comedy on menu

STOURBRIDGE Theatre Company are staging Alan Ayckbourn's play Table Manners at Stourbridge Town Hall. The comedy drama set in a dining room is performed from tonight (Thursday) to Saturday. Tickets cost £9 (concessions £7). Call 0870 320 7000.

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Wordsley start-up money is available

BUSINESSES can apply for a share of a £16,000 cash pot to help set up in Wordsley.

Funding is also available for projects bringing empty shops back into use and helping to create jobs and investment.

The money is available via the Kingswinford North & Wall Heath, Kingswinford South and Wordsley Community Forum.

Ward councillor Paul Brothwood said: "I urge potential entrepreneurs to come forward and make use of this public money to improve our local community."

"This funding could act as a catalyst for further investment to be ploughed into our area which would in turn generate jobs and greater opportunities."

"The community forum also has additional funds available to help local projects and good causes in the area. I call on people to attend the forum meetings and learn more about what is happening in the area."

This funding is a great opportunity and I urge people to seize it," he added.

To find out further information about the funding opportunities email cllr.paul.brothwood@dud-leymbc.org.uk or contact Dudley Council.

Baubles to boost charity

A STORE at Merry Hill shopping centre is raising money for vulnerable children by allowing shoppers to decorate its Christmas tree with baubles.

Customers at Homesense are able to buy a bauble for £1 on which to write their own festive message and hang on the store's tree.

All proceeds will go to Action for Children's centres in Smethwick and West Bromwich.

The campaign has been running for four years. Last year Homesense raised more than £75,000 for the Black Country charity's children's centres.

Gardening course

GARDENING enthusiasts can enhance skills with a Royal Horticulture Society course at at Priory Park in Dudley. Participants are asked to pay £100 each towards the course, with the rest paid from the park's Heritage Lottery Fund grant. Call (01384) 812474.

Money transfer boss jailed for ignoring rules



Paramjit Singh Sangha

THE owner of a Black Country money bureau has been jailed for 12 months for failing to comply with regulations to combat money laundering.

Paramjit Singh Sangha, who runs PS Gold Exchange in Dudley, failed to carry out required checks before transferring up to £400,000 of his clients' money to India.

The 53-year-old of Spring Parklands did not check the identity of all his customers, failed to keep necessary documentation and did not train staff to spot suspicious activity.

He ignored warnings from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) of officers who visited him several times.

Colin Booker, assistant director of Criminal Investigation at HMRC, said: "Regulations exist to prevent businesses being used for money laundering purposes by criminals. People who run money services bureaux are required to take extra care when transferring larger sums of money, to help prevent criminally obtained cash from being laundered outside the UK."

"HMRC officers visited Sangha

on several occasions and advised him that he needed to take more care. He chose to ignore us, which is why he found himself in court."

Sangha pleaded guilty to four charges of failing to comply with regulations and was jailed at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week.

Most money service businesses that exchange currency, transmit money or cash cheques for their customers are required to comply with Money Laundering Regulations (MLRs). This includes registering with HMRC and undertaking

appropriate checks. All businesses that are covered by the regulations have to put in place suitable anti-money laundering controls.

This can include assessing the risk of the business being used by criminals to launder money, checking the identity of customers, keeping all documents that relate to financial transactions and making sure that employees are aware of the regulations and have the necessary training. Businesses are also required to report suspicious activity to the National Crime Agency.

Police station counter cuts move in bid to save £3m

STOURBRIDGE Police Station is one of three in the borough that will close to the public amid £3 million cuts, the force has revealed.

The front counters at Stourbridge, Dudley and Halesowen have been earmarked to shut.

In total 27 front offices across the West Midlands will close with more than 90 of the 170 jobs at risk.

Opening hours will also be reduced at Brierley Hill. The

front counter which is currently available 24 hours a day will be open between 8am and 10pm. Sedgley Police Station will act as a contact point, staffed by volunteers.

Internet

West Midlands Police says the proposals to shut front counters follow an independent review, which shows the majority of the public no longer visit stations and instead make phone calls, use the internet or social media to contact officers.

But the plans have been met with anger and disappointment from councillors, unions and several Black Country MPs.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has vowed to campaign against the closure plans for Dudley Police Station and has launched a petition urging bosses to rethink the move.

Wordsley councillor Derrick Hemmings said he was concerned about the closure of the front counter at Stourbridge, currently open from 10am to 6pm, saying: "It's sending out the wrong message that the police force is diminishing."

It costs the force £5.5m to run the counters. Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "Ninety five per cent of people have mobile phones now, and can contact the police from anywhere."

Enchanting gifts from glass cone artists



Artists Bev Bernhard-Bridges, Sarah Jones and Paul Schubey, at Red House Glass Cone's Enchanted display

STUDIO artists at the Red House Glass Cone have put together an exhibition to 'enchant' visitors during the festive season.

It focuses on the magic of Christmas with artworks featuring fairies and pieces that embrace the early origins of the season.

The exhibition called Enchanted will include a wide range of interpretations of the theme in jewellery, ceramic, glass and lino-cut prints with pieces including glass-fused Christmas wreaths and paintings of local scenes.

Culture boss at Dudley Council, Councillor Hilary Bills, urged people to attend the exhibition. She said: "The made@thecone studio artists pull-out all the stops for their annual showcase. The Enchanted exhibition embraces the spirit of Christmas and the traditions of Yule to create some truly original pieces of work."

The artists who make up the made@thecone collective are Sarah Cannings, ceramicist and educator; Sarah Jones, lampwork glass artist; Jane Ellis, fused glass artist; Sean

Counley, fantasy inspired artist, picture framer and arts tutor; Charlotte Hughes-Martin, glassblower and glass engraver; Martin Yates, artist, writer and educator; Helen Savin, silk screen printer; Rebecca Handy, mixed media artist and jewellery maker; Stu Goodings, stained glass artist; Stuart Caldicott, horologist; and Paul Schubey, shabby chic furniture restorer.

The exhibition runs until January. The Red House Glass Cone in High Street, Wordsley, is open from 10am to 4pm, admission is free.

Pub toilets are flushed with pride

THREE pubs in Dudley have won acclaim for their toilets in the Loo of the Year Awards 2014.

The Abraham Darby at Merry Hill and The Clifton in Sedgley have each been awarded a platinum star rating by inspectors — the highest award — while The Waterfront Inn at Level Street, Brierley Hill, achieved a gold rating.

Loo awards boss Mike Bone said: "The toilets at each of the pubs have been designed and fitted out to a very high standard and are both clean and well maintained."

Technology tips for the elderly

OLDER people living near Brierley Hill are being offered help in how to use mobile phones and other digital technology.

The workshop on Monday is the first in a week of sessions at Age UK Dudley's Waterfront Activity Centre on Level Street.

Attendees will be given guidance on how to use iPads, laptops and other common technology. Places are limited and must be booked.

Call (01384) 571830 for more information.

Christmas fair to aid church funds

FAMILIES are invited to a Christmas fair at a Dudley church on Saturday.

The event at St Mark's in Pensnett will be opened by the Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston on Saturday.

There will be stalls selling a range of items including cakes and plants. There will also be a tombola and a visit from Father Christmas. Proceeds will go to church funds.

Bingo bonanza with £195K win

A BINGO player has struck lucky taking home a jackpot prize of £195,388 in Oldbury.

The young bingo player, who regularly enjoys a game of bingo, called house at Mecca Bingo in the town.

The winner claimed the prize during the evening session on November 13, bosses announced.

Church festive fun

A CHRISTMAS fair will take place at an Upper Gornal church on Saturday. The event in aid of church funds will be at St Peter's Church, in Kent Street, from 10.30am to 2.30pm.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

IN THE nauseating new trailer for ITV's daytime schedule, Philip Schofield asks viewers what their phobias are.

I'm no expert on the subject. But I would imagine Gok Wan and Janet Street-Porter being dragged out of bed by Lorraine Kelly and told you need a make-over must all feature pretty highly.

□□□□

Twenty-seven police stations across the West Midlands are set to close their front counters over the next year in an effort to save £3m.

Under the plans, only just 10 will remain open, with only one of those remaining open round the clock.

For the first time in living memory, towns like Walsall and Dudley will have no police station where members of the public can walk in for help.

If you need to call into a police station in Wolverhampton or West Bromwich after 10pm, forget it.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, says the front desks are a throwback from a bygone age, and that the world has moved on.

"Ninety-five per cent of people have mobile phones now, and can contact the police from anywhere," he says.

"Research shows that very few people are visiting front desks and prefer to phone the police or use the internet rather than go to a police station."

It really is hard to know where to start with all that.

I'm sure he's right most people would prefer to avoid calling into a police station unless they really have to.

Indeed I'm fairly sure, that in an ideal world, most of us would prefer never to need to have any dealings with the police at all. But it is nice to know they are there in case we need them.

If 95 per cent of the population has a mobile phone, that means five per cent don't have one.

What about them?

And, of course, contacting the police by phone these days invariably means being redirected to a call centre miles away.

And while 95 per cent may well have mobile phones, what happens when you have just been robbed of your phone in the city centre?

□□□□

And one other thing. Suppose you get pulled over by the police in your car, and they ask you to produce your documents the following day.

Will they be happy for you now to send them by text or email? Or will you now be expected to drive miles to find a police station which is still open?

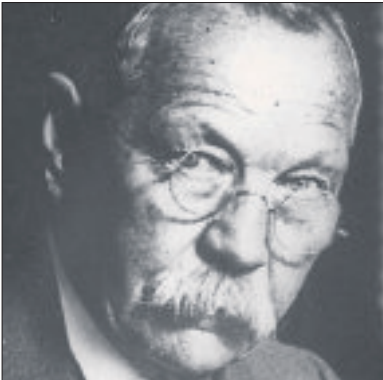
Just a thought.



Martin Clunes during a break in filming at Dudley



Drama co-stars Charles Edwards and Martin Clunes



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes

Return to scene of crimes for Clunes

ANDREW TURTON on the making of a drama based on a case that intrigued the creator of Sherlock Holmes

ACTOR Martin Clunes has been travelling the country filming his latest TV drama but now the action has returned to the region where it all began – the West Midlands.

The incredible tale of a Staffordshire vicar's son wrongly jailed for an horrific attack on a pit pony and then dramatically proved innocent by Sherlock Holmes creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is to be told in a three-part ITV series.

The cast of Arthur and George last week came to the Black Country Living Museum to film in its authentic period buildings to recreate the tale which unfolded at the start of the 20th century and stunned the nation.

Producers turned to the cobbled streets and industrial canalside locations of the Black Country Living Museum to bring the new ITV drama to life.

Gripped

Vicar's son and Birmingham solicitor George Edalji, an Anglo-Asian, was wrongly convicted in 1903 after a series of vicious maiming attacks on horses and other livestock, which became known as the Great Wryley Outrages. The tale made headlines nationwide and it fell to Conan Doyle to play real-life detective to help to clear his name.

The Great Wryley Outrages are the centre of a three-part series starring Martin Clunes, best known for Cornish drama Doc Martin and the comedy Men Behaving Badly, as Conan Doyle.

Film crews and actors – including Clunes – arrived at the popular heritage



Martin Clunes about to film a scene for Arthur & George at the museum

museum, in Tipton Road, Dudley, to begin a three day shoot.

The museum's buildings were transformed into the Staffordshire village of Great Wryley in the 1900s when the outrages gripped the nation.

The tale has reached a new audience as in 2005 it was thrust back into the spotlight by author Julian Barnes whose Arthur and George novel was shortlisted for the Man Booker prize and has now been adapted for television.

Clunes finds his latest role intriguing.

He said: "It's been a big change for us from the Doc Martin team."

The museum's canal and forge area are being used for filming. Extra set dressing has been brought in to create atmosphere. Actors will even be seen with replicas of the Cannock Chronicle, to read all about the sensational headlines of the case during the show.

Julian Barnes is not directly involved in the production, but has given it his blessing.

"I think Julian was tickled pink to see his book come to life for television,"

added Clunes, who is starring alongside actor Charles Edwards who has appeared in Downton Abbey.

"It's strange how people can't always see the difference between Sherlock Holmes and his creator."

"People keep asking me if Benedict Cumberbatch is going to show up."

Clunes, sporting a cap and fake moustache on set in character, added: "The costumes are great. The waistcoats and shirts are designed by angels. But I wouldn't have liked to live in Victorian times. I'm too much a fan of modern life."

Unusually for Clunes, filming is being done digitally so that Victorian London can be created via blue screen.

He said: "It doesn't really make any difference for the actors but the picture quality is amazing. Rushes are like Rembrandt."

George Edalji's ordeal began in part when a number of animals were found mutilated in the quiet village of Great Wryley. The outrages reached national notoriety when anonymous poison pen letters in the name of the 'Wryley Gang' were sent to the newspapers.

Edalji, whose father came from Bombay and was the vicar at St Mark's parish church, was sentenced to seven years inside Pentonville Prison for the Great Wryley Rippings, as they were also known.

Fearing a miscarriage of justice and a racist element to the case, Sir Arthur and his trusted manservant, Alfred 'Woody' Wood, investigated and began a campaign to clear Edalji's name.

The Tipton Road museum has also recently been used for filming 1920s gangster drama Peaky Blinders.

Black Country Living Museum spokeswoman Laura Wakelin said: "We are very pleased that the museum is being used as a filming location in yet another primetime drama – especially one whose story is embedded in local history."

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

AMID the anger over the planned closure of police station front desks, I have to feel a little bit sorry for David Jamieson.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner was elected into the role at enormous cost and on a measly low turnout.

At £3.7 million and serving an electorate of about two million, it was one of the biggest and most expensive by-elections ever. While Labour's Mr Jamieson won a decisive victory with more than 50 per cent of the votes cast, it was not the greatest moment for democracy. Barely one in 10 people bothered to vote for who they wanted to fill a role few even understood. Almost two years on from when the role was created, not that many wanted to accept the offer of greater political and democratic accountability within the force.

This week a lot of people read the name David Jamieson. MPs from his own party are demanding he change a plan to shut the front desks of 27 police stations and reduce the opening hours of others.

The argument in favour is that few people go to the police station in person now, preferring instead to communicate by phone or internet. But, inevitably, the talk turns to the £3 million saving, coming as it does at a time of deep cuts in police funding.

If there was no police and crime commissioner in the first place, there would have been no election and therefore no cost to the taxpayer. In short, that's another year's worth of front desks staying open.

Before anyone gets all pedantic and points out that the election costs are met by the Home Office and the front desks by the police, just remember it's all public money. The source of it, whether central or local government, is you.

Where I feel especially sorry for David Jamieson is how isolated he now appears within his own party. His colleagues in Parliament are keeping things professional but they are all agreed this is a bad idea.

They put on a united front by blaming the Government for the cuts but the decision on how to deal with them rests with the Commissioner. If he does give in to demands of Westminster politicians it would call into question the whole point of the role.

When Dudley Labour MP Ian Austin brought up the plan with William Hague in the Commons he was just told how satisfied people have been with the police, effectively pushing responsibility back to Mr Jamieson in his office in Birmingham.

The review of front desks was started by Mr Jamieson's predecessor Bob Jones, whose sudden death triggered the by-election.

There will now be quite a lot of people looking at these proposals and saying how they certainly didn't vote for this. Of course, that includes the vast majority who didn't vote at all.

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The traffic makes it 'Merry Hell'

MERRY Hill enjoys 25 years success!
The people who own 'Merry Hell' are rubbing their hands together, raking in 25 years of profits.

To the local people who live close to the centre, at certain times of the year it can only be described as motoring madness.

No investment has been made in the road systems around the centre, leading to congestion at peak times. The centre traffic builds up as far back as Commonside.

Trying to get out is even worse. At the island in Level street, no thought has been

given to the traffic trying to get through to Pensnett and beyond, and the hundreds of cars coming out of the centre that merge at the same island.

The centre owners and Dudley Council need to get together and sort out the mess they have created. No thought was even given at the planning stage to the poor road systems around Brierley Hill. The roads are too narrow, and the traffic lights for the Brierley Hill bypass has made things worse.

D POTTER
Brierley Hill

Size of mosque building too large

I SAW the picture of the proposed mosque and the size of it appalled me.

It is too large for the place it is to be built, and too large for Dudley itself.

The problem is, when or if it is built, will it end there? Or will the those behind the mosque plan buy up other land around about, and continue building other amenities, until we have a small Muslim town within a town?

The building of the mosque is against the wishes of the majority of the people of Dudley.

P STEEN
Stourbridge

It's the words that matter

RE J Grainger 'Songs just not praise worthy'. Sadly for you the tune is more important than the spiritual message within the words.

I did not hear Michael Ball's interpretation, but surely a new tune brings fresh emphasis to the old words and re-energises the importance of those words and, God willing, brings those words to a new generation.

Perhaps the small mindedness of some folk has brought the church to where it is today?

MARK A GORDON
Wimbledon Drive
Stourbridge

Stage could ruin project for gardens

A few weeks ago Dudley Council announced a £1.3m project to revamp the Coronation Gardens.

The refurbishment is to include the re-building of the wall by the fountain - great news, long overdue.

The refurbishment of Apollo Fountain is also great news though I'm not so sure about the re-introduction of water - could invite vandalism. Then, with the pluses comes a whopping minus.

After Priory Park, the gardens are probably our second jewel in the crown. It has flowers, lawns, walk-throughs, seating and now the cenotaph. Why on earth does the council feel a need to build a stage and outdoor centre and events area on this lovely place? It will ruin the gardens and part of the money should go on other needs in the town.

Look at what didn't happen on that other great idea. The square in Stone Street cost us over £800k - and for what? It was once a bus stop and a car park, you know, useful things.

S HUNT
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Don't target our vital youth services

HAVING been a leader for 47 years in the voluntary youth service in the Dudley borough I find the proposed closure of the universal youth service (with the exception of all but one) very alarming.

To invest in the future we must invest in our children and young people.

Our children and young people should not be an easy option to save money.

Over the years, Dudley MBC has taken many privileges away from the youth service.

With the introduction of extended schools our four groups, with an average of 80 children and young people attending each week, lost the free bookings of the school hall. Many facilities for our youth have been lost

over the years, canoeing, sailing, rock climbing and the withdrawal of ten youth and community mini-buses.

The closure of any of our youth centres or services will be a great mistake as they are providing a place to meet and a safe haven. Bored groups will soon add to the problems that already exist, bringing even greater problems to the communities.

However good the voluntary youth organisations are, they cannot cater to the needs of all young people. The full time youth service provides many alternatives, so Dudley, keep providing one.

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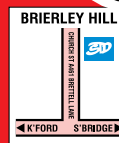
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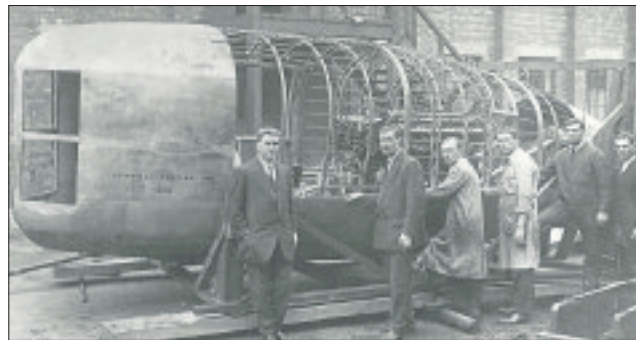
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Harry Nott, ex-RFC, at his wedding



Sunbeam workers in 1919 with one of the airship gondolas they were to produce



A Guy 6-wheel bus, one of post war success stories



Some of the many in Josiah Parkes in 1922

How post-war work return never took off

AT 11 am on November 11, 1918 the guns fell silent across the world.

They were firing right up to the last second, as many of the gunners began to claim that they had fired the last shot in the 'War to End all Wars'.

Then began the process of returning the millions of men and women, but mostly men to their homes, where many expected to return to their old jobs, supplanting the women who had taken their place; but things were not as simple as that.

Wolverhampton, and the Black Country in general, were geared up for war, turning out munitions, warplanes, guns, and all the paraphernalia of the modern conflict.

Orders were cancelled, though production of, now unwanted items, continued into 1919.

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

Companies had to find new products to turn their skills to. Wolverhampton was well served in the new motorised age with many vehicle manufacturers, who thought they could return to car and motor-bike production and find a ready market with the returning servicemen, many of whom had become well used to motor vehicles during the four years of conflict.

Dominated

Sunbeam returned their car production from Rover in Coventry but still hoped to make a large business in the production of aero-engines, which had dominated the Villiers Street factories during the war.

They were to find that the competition from Rolls-Royce in par-

ticular and from cheap war-surplus engines was too much, and they hardly sold an aircraft engine after the war.

Round the corner Star returned to car production, but were never able to sell enough from their confined factories to sustain the business, and firstly their Briton division and then Star itself went to the wall, and Edward Lisle, founder of the company took his life.

Guy returned to making trucks, and became hugely successful.

Other companies were also to find ready markets for their metal-bashing skills, making locks, bicycles, ploughshares, and all the nuts and bolts to put them together.

Elsewhere servicemen returned to quieter lives, opening shops, starting their own businesses, often with the skills they had learned in the Army, and looked forward to re-building their lives.



Edward Lisle who took his own life after business failure

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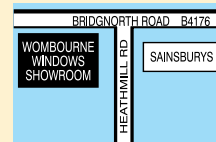
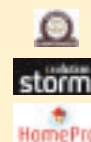
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Song honours war dead with a Christmas carol



Singer Abby Scott launches the charity single with Canterbury chorister William Inscoe and Flight Lieutenant Matt Little

A MUSICAL duo from Kinver are pinning their hopes on topping the charts with a new Christmas charity single in aid of the armed forces.

Abby Scott, aged 29, is part of an ensemble of voices and soloists including Flight Lieutenant Matt Little and 12-year-old Canterbury Cathedral chorister and Radio 2's Young Chorister of the Year finalist William Inscoe.

1914 The Carol of Christmas was composed by her husband Chris Eaton, who wrote Cliff Richard's Christmas hit Saviour's Day alongside

Judd Field. It celebrates the power of Christmas to bring peace in the midst of war and commemorates those who fought in World War One.

The singers are accompanied by members of the RAF Spitfire Choir. A video for the song was recorded at the Grave of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey.

Proceeds from sales will go to the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity, and ABF The Soldier's Charity.

Abby said she was delighted to be involved in the project, saying: "It's a huge honour to be involved in this

song and share the message of peace at Christmas. Recording the video at Westminster Abbey at the Grave of the Unknown Soldier, alongside today's servicemen and women, was an incredibly powerful experience.

Mother-of-one Abby said: "I can't even imagine sending my son off to war or having my husband not come home. Almost every family and every village in the country was affected by the Great War. Our song honours both those who died and the families who grieved back at home."

The song will be available for to order online.

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The Wedding Present lived up to their name

BLACK Country jewellery designer Elizabeth Edge went to see her favourite band in Stourbridge — The Wedding Present — and ended up helping one of the group with their own wedding.

The 34-year-old rock fan was at the River Rooms in Stourbridge to see the indie band from Yorkshire when she got talking to lead singer David Gedge. When he discovered that Elizabeth made jewellery, he asked whether she would be interested in making the wedding ring for his fiancée Jessica.

After finding out what sort of ring they were looking for, she went to work in her studio in Old Wharf Road, Stourbridge.

History

The yellow gold ring took the former Stourbridge College and University of Wolverhampton student a week to make.

"Jessica liked a range I do called 'Unearthed' which is based on designs that feel like they have a history, with a worn feel that's quite tactile and nice to wear.

"As this is something that comes through my jewellery, I'm very interested in the history of objects and how they came to be. I visited the Staffordshire Hoard in Birmingham and there are some beautiful pieces on display."

She said: "Jessica said she hadn't seen many wedding rings that she liked and really liked the unusual design and also the fact that even though it was from a range I do no two rings are ever the same, as I make every ring by hand myself," she said.

Elizabeth, who lives in Stourbridge, travelled to Brighton to meet the couple and to hand over the finished ring.



Jewellery designer Elizabeth Edge, of Stourbridge, working on a wedding ring



Rock band The Wedding Present with Dave Gedge second from left

"They loved it and it fitted her, which is always a worry as a jeweller," she added.

The couple were married in Paris last month.

Elizabeth, who studied at the School of Jewellery in Birmingham, has been making jewellery professionally for the past five years. She gets three to four commissions each month. "It started

with friends and family but as I have got more confidence I have become better at promoting my work," she explained. Elizabeth said she hoped the rock star's commission would be the first of many celebrity commissions in the future.

The Wedding Present were one of the favourite bands of the influential DJ John Peel, who died in 2004.

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Established since 1994, Tipton Windows & Conservatories Ltd, trading as Choices, believe that the latest trends are important, but quality products and exceptional service will always be paramount, which this family run business have proven over nearly two decades.

Situated on Sedgley Road West in Tipton, the founder and company Managing Director Nathan Beddows started the business from scratch at the early age of 19 working out of the very same premises as he does today. He explains his passion:

"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangery we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 19 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and

installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having being recommended to Choices Windows by colleagues at work he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

Fitting new PVC-U windows can be a good choice for the environment as well as for your home. Replacing dated double glazing can help save money on heating bills and reduce the carbon footprint of a residence.

"We offer A-rated energy-efficient windows and doors which can help save up to £250 from heating bills in the first year alone. They not only reflect heat back into the house, but also retain heat from solar gain," remarks Nathan.

"As a company we pride ourselves on giving old fashioned value for money and excellent service, we can undertake the majority of jobs and because we manufacture in house at our premises unlike the majority of our local competitors it enables us to have full control so we can manage your project from start to completion ensuring your experience is stress free."

"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting "sign on the night low price offer" that the double glazing industry is notorious for," advises Nathan.

The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

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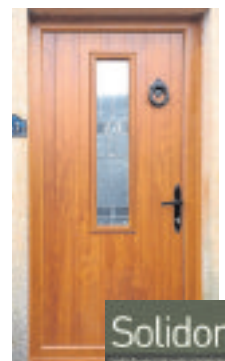
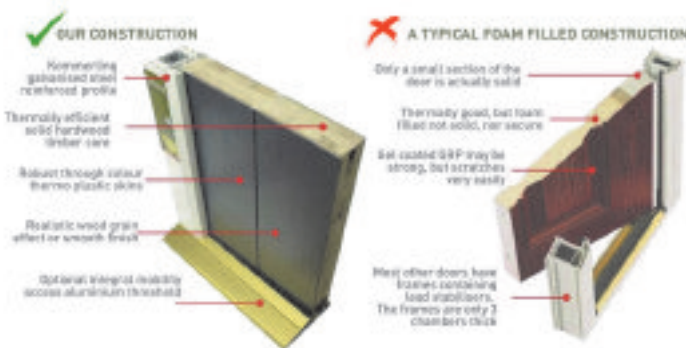
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14Deadline for charity box filling

Thursday, November 27, 2014
Stourbridge Chronicle

Wombourne WI

BEFORE the business of the evening Tina, from Samaritan Boxes, came to take the things we had collected for this charity.

She thanked us on behalf of the charity. The boxes have to be ready by the December 6.

Our speaker for the evening was Peter Moody who came to talk to us about Beacon, Sedgley. Begun in 1875 the centre has seen many changes including names. In 1926 it was known as Wolverhampton Society for the blind and the old buildings had workshops.

Unfortunately cheap imports soon saw these building out of use so they were knocked down. Rebuilding has been done in stages, finally completed in 2009 and reopened as a charity to help local people with sight loss. Around four percent are totally blind other members are helped with varying problems arising from cataracts, diabetes, glaucoma, macular degeneration, sight loss after strokes etc. Beacon has more than 50apartments, almost like sheltered accommodation, including a shop, hairdressers, activity centre and coffee shop. There are day members too and all enjoy the wider range of activities and excursions on offer. We look forward to a future visit to be shown round. A lovely, informative evening.

Our meetings are now held at Wombourne Community Centre on the second Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to join us.

Grand trip proved to be a real topper

Getting ready for the festive season

A warm welcome was given to all the members and visitors.

This month's meeting was all about Getting ready for Christmas our speaker for the evening was Linda Jackson who had come along to demonstrate a variety of flower arrangements.

Linda demonstrated simple arrangement suitable for the Christmas dinner table, a grand arrangement that would dress the finest of hall's and arrangements that could fit around the home and set the scene for the festive season.

We all sat, watched and listened to some of Linda's memorable moments, which certainly entertained us whilst she was creating her arrangements.

We had a most enjoy-

Trysull & Seisdon WI

able time and the flower arrangement 's were raffled off and the following names were the lucky winners, Mary Westwood, Ena Wooddisse, Claire Shinton, Peggy White, Freda Fellows, Freda Perks, Sue Cotterell and Barbara Morris.

The competition for a Homemade Christmas Craft was won by Freda Fellows.

We are holding our WI Christmas Party on December 11 at the Village Hall, Trysull.

The Women's Institute meet every second Thursday in the month at the Village Hall, Trysull, 7.30pm.

We are always pleased to welcome new members and visitors.

Wombourne E TG

THE November meeting began with a short introduction from the Committee.

A trip to see Top Hat at the Grand had been a great success being an excellent production. Both Chris and Doreen were thanked for organising the much enjoyed Beetle 'cat' Drive.

Chairman Dorothy Bailey then introduced our speakers, John and Annette Christophers from Albrighton Pottery. We were well entertained by John on the origins of the use of clay by our ancestors.

The highlight of the evening involved all members getting involved in a project. Anne very ably instructed and produced a bowl ready for firing.

Christmas celebrations will begin with the Federation of TG's Carol service at St John's in the Square Wolverhampton on Saturday December 6 at 11am.

The monthly meeting on December 11 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, Wombourne will be a Christmas Celebration with supper provided.

Memories from Wall Heath

LOCAL historian John Sparry spoke at the November meeting of the Society about his Kingswinford and Wall Heath Memories.

Born in Kingswinford he told of the local characters, shopkeepers and neighbours whilst living in Moss Grove. After the family moved to Wall Heath he recounted incidents during the war of bombs dropping locally and of his journeys to school in Stourbridge. The Society meets at the Community Cen-

K-ford and District Historical Society

tre, High Street, Kingswinford. The December meeting starts at an earlier time of 7pm as this begins with the AGM.

The Society is in need of new officers and committee members and unless volunteers come forward it is likely the Society will close in 2015. Further details from Ron Julian 01384 295848.

Experience a Victorian Christmas at museum

VISITORS can take a step back in time for a Christmas filled with roasted chestnuts, traditional fish and chips and gas light.

Experience the sights and smells of a bygone era, a time when festive traditions like trees and crackers were just taking off.

From December 19 to 23, the Black Country Museum will open its doors at 6.30pm for anybody who wants the nostalgic excitement of a Victorian Christmas.

By Matthew Growcut

With a full cast of actors ready to bring famous scenes from classics such as A Christmas Carol to life and a pantomime version of Hansel and Gretel performed by Fizzog Productions, it promises a old time Christmas with a Black Country twist.

Houses will be warmed by open fires and will be simply decorated as fits the era, while carol singers can be joined in the chapel for anybody who fancies a festive sing-along.

Roast meat and chestnuts will be available from vendors in the streets, and adults can look forward to mulled wine. Visitors will also be able to take part in making a boiled Christmas pudding.

Irene Deboo, curator of

Council leader is standing down



National role — Leader of Dudley Council and Labour leader Councillor David Sparks

THE leader of Dudley Council has announced he will stand down from the role next month.

Councillor David Sparks has also resigned from his role as leader of the Labour Party on the authority with immediate effect. He will step down as council leader at the next meeting of the full council on Monday after a successor has been appointed.

Councillor Sparks said he felt it was the right time to give up the role as a new chief executive, Sarah Norman, is due to start in January, when a reduced management team will be put in place. He has been leader of the council since May 2012 and leader of the Labour Group since 2004.

In July this year, Councillor Sparks was also appointed as chairman of the Local Government Association since July this year. He said standing down from his council leader position would also enable him to focus more on this role, working with councils nationwide to 'deliver local solutions to national problems.'

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16 Girl group album is a surefire Bette

Reviews by Leon Burakowski

BETTE Midler has long been the queen of cabaret-style entertainment with her blend of ballads, show tunes and wicked sense of humour.

To most under-30s she is probably best known as the funniest of the three witches in Disney's Halloween favourite Hocus Pocus.

Now she's back with her tribute to girl group pop, from the 1930s to 90s. It's **The Girls** is a classy project with Bette providing her own backing vocals, though she enlists the queen of backing singers Darlene Love to duet on The Crystals' He's Sure The Boy I Love. Be My Baby, One Fine Day and Tell Him stick close to the originals.

Elsewhere she gives the songs an interesting twist, introducing a hint of her home state of Hawaii to Mr Sandman and brilliantly slowing Martha and the Vandellas' Come And Get These Memories to a poignant ballad. A stripped back, piano-led version of TLC's Waterfalls packs an emotional punch and she even pulls off a banjo-picking hill-billy version of You Can't Hurry Love. The album ends in fine vintage style with the Dixieland jazz of It's The Girl.

Bette Midler begins her first UK tour in 35 years at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham on July 9.

The combined CD/DVD package **Whitney Houston Live: Her Greatest Performances** combines 16 tracks plus 18 video performances, starting with her teenaged debut singing Home on The Merv Griffin TV show in 1983, via her Super Bowl performance of The Star Spangled Banner in '91 to her emotional I Didn't Know My Own Strength on The Oprah Winfrey Show in 2009. She died in 2012, aged only 48.



Whitney Houston — many of her famous live performances on a new album



Bette Midler — the singer and comedienne pays tribute to girl groups

As a live album, this doesn't hang together as well as a single concert performance but Whitney fans may enjoy the overview of her career.

Whitney Houston also appears on **Barry Manilow** album **My Dream Duets** in which Barry sings with a lot of very famous but very dead stars of popular music. It may have been a dream come true for Manilow to duet with Judy Garland, Sammy Davis Jr, Dusty Springfield, Louis Armstrong, etc. I think it is more of a nightmare.

These are not true duets with musical to-and-fro between the artists, they are — however expertly done — slice and splice jobs. It's a bad concept and a creative cul-de-sac for an artist who is surely talented enough to create music without technically resurrecting art-

ists who have no say in the matter. A sample is one thing but to tamper with these artists' music within the genres in which they excelled is questionable.

Moody dance anthems come with an Ibiza twist from synth pop veterans **Erasure** on new album **The Violet Flame**. The duo celebrate nearly 30 years of hits at a sold-out Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday.

Young singer-songwriter James Page, under stage name **Sivu**, creates a potent atmosphere on his debut album **Something On High**. It's a blend of tremulous vocals and haunted soundscapes with songs of isolation and yearning. Listen if you like London Grammar or Wild Beasts. He will be supporting Bombay Bicycle Club at Wolverhampton Civic on December 10.

Oohs and aahs as actors go Full Monty

The Full Monty, **Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton** CLEVER casting, quality acting, fast-moving scenery, special effects — and a delightful young boy. This show has The Full Monty.

This stage production follows the story of the hit 90s movie. Set against the backdrop of industrial depression in Sheffield, six men who have fallen on hard times become strippers for one night only.

It's a feel good story, well-delivered and funny throughout with many one liners.

And, of course, a famous piece de resistance.

Gary Lucy leads the cast as Gaz, alongside ex-soap stars Louis Emerick (Horse) and Rupert Hill (Guy), Andrew Dunn, of Dinner Ladies fame as Gerald, Bobby Schofield (Lomper) and Martin Miller (Dave).

All bear striking resemblances to

their film characters and, for the most part, had the accents off to a tee.

There were audible gasps at Lomper's suicide attempt, oohs as Guy showed off his rear, aahs at the terrific performance of Ralf Clark as Gaz's son Nathan — and screams from delighted women at a finale that revealed the naked truth.

The Full Monty runs at The Grand until Saturday (November 29).

Mark Shipp

Poozies perform perfectly

The Poozies **MAC, Birmingham**

THE Poozies turned up on stage at MAC Birmingham looking like four friends on a girls' night out but with one major exception, these ladies had brought their own entertainment.

Mary Macmaster on electro harp, Sally Barker on guitar, Eilidh Shaw on fiddle and Mairead Green on accordion are an absolute delight to listen to and the 90 minute set they did just flew by, leaving you wanting more.

Their mixture of self-penned and traditionally arranged Scottish, Gaelic, folk and country-style music is executed with such ease of precision and with their harmonised singing it is simply a joy to sit back and let their music wash over you.

Each of the Poozies has an impressive career outside of the band playing with some of the most skilled musicians on the circuit and individually they are amongst the finest of players but it's when they come together, that the magic that is The Poozies happens.

Danny Farragher

REVIEWS



Hackney soul singer Paloma Faith in action at Wolverhampton

Funky diva is back to her best at Civic Hall

Paloma Faith, **Wolverhampton Civic Hall**

JUST weeks after being in hospital, funky diva Paloma Faith was back to her feisty, energetic and soulful best to treat a full house Civic Hall audience to a night to remember on Saturday.

Her latest album A Perfect Contradiction, now out in an 'Outsiders Edition' enhanced by extra tracks, provided the material. Its blend of retro soul, funky grooves and modern R&B struck a chord with an audience who didn't seem to mind the absence of her earlier hits.

Paloma looked stunning

with a blonde 60s hairstyle and short, pom-pom trimmed Natalia Kaut dress. She duetted with Brett Dennen on Van Morrison's Crazy Love. Californian Dennen, a Where's Wally? look-alike, makes up for his lack of sartorial elegance with a gentle voice and fine songs revealed during his support slot.

Paloma's show reached its climax with a stirring cover version of Ike and Tina Turner's River Deep Mountain High, Can't Rely On You and her first UK No1 (achieved with Sigma) Changing. **LB**

Sprinkle of fairy dust from Pan

Peter Pan the Musical, **Bilston Operatic Company, Grand**

JUST like Peter Pan himself it's a story that will never age. And Bilston Operatic Company certainly did it justice at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre.

The cast gave their all and were in good voice, especially Lucy Follows who played Wendy. Filling the famous green outfit was 17-year-old Maison Kelly.

The well-known story takes us from the nursery from where the three children Wendy, John and Michael are whisked away by Peter Pan to the magical wonders of Neverland. But it ends on a sad note when Peter realises the people he has become close to actually do have to grow up.

Just a couple of giggles, the stage moving was a bit clumsy and the wires used for the flying scenes were noticeable, maybe a darker colour next time.

But these are picky things and overall the performance was very good. Our own little Tinkerbell in the audience certainly loved it

Sue Attwater

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Family fundraiser is in memory of comic Lee



All for grandad — the grandchildren of comedian Lee Wilson are planning a family fundraising day in his honour

THE family of Black Country comedian Lee Wilson are raising money in his name at a charity event on Sunday.

Mr Wilson, whose real name was Geoff Beards, died four weeks after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. A year on and four of his grandchildren are organising a fundraiser to coincide with Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

The event will be at the River Rooms in Stourbridge from noon to 4pm. It will feature up to 10 stalls as well as a Santa's grotto and raffle.

Cash raised will go to Pancreatic Cancer Action.

Mr Wilson, of Pedmore, died aged 74. He had turned professional in 1973, won TV talent show New Faces in 1976 and starred on TV show The Comedians. He was also a familiar face with the Black Country Night Out.

Jasper Carrott and Tom O'Connor were among the 350 people who attended his funeral at Oldswinford. He was survived by his wife Sheila and children Tracy, Lee and Debbie. Grandchildren Ellie, Libby, Emily and Sam Martin are organising the fundraiser.



Lots of laughs — comedian Lee Wilson

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UKIP hold protest on combined authority

A PROTEST will be held against plans to create a combined authority for Birmingham and the Black Country.

UKIP West Midlands MEPs James Carver and Bill Etheridge have organised the protest which has been branded 'Hands off Birmingham and Hands off the Black Country'.

Sedgley-based Mr Etheridge, who is his party's candidate in Dudley North at next year's general election, said: "This protest will mark the launch of our concerted campaign against regionalisation and a combined authority. We don't want to see the centralisation of power."

"We believe local people should have a real say, at a localised level, about issues that concern them. The shift of power away from the people will deeply damage local democracy and accountability. UKIP will fight this."

Council leaders in Dudley, Sandwell, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Birmingham have agreed to set up a combined authority to take powers that may be devolved from London.

Mr Carver, UKIP's Stourbridge candidate in May's general election, described

By Robert Cox

the plan as a 'stitch-up' by Labour. He said: "It is the Labour-run authorities in Walsall, Dudley, Wolverhampton and Birmingham who want to sign away our local democracies to create a combined authority."

The protest will take place outside Dudley Council House at 5.15pm on Monday, ahead of a meeting of the council.

Meanwhile, Conservative MP for Wolverhampton South West Paul Uppal has said the Black Country does not need the help of Birmingham to grow.

He said: "I have no problems with combining services across the Black Country. Expanding this partnership to Birmingham and beyond is simply a step too far."

Fun times on menu at new arts centre



Pupils Samuel and James Checketts with head teacher Jo Davies and Councillor Tim Crompton at the ARC

PUPILS at a Ham Dingle Primary School, in Stourbridge, have found a recipe for success after a new centre for cooking and arts was opened in the school grounds.

The centre will be used by pupils and also available to the wider community.

The facility was named ARC after brothers and pupils at the school, James and Samuel Checketts, won a competition to name the centre.

Smiles

ARC stands for Arts, Recreation and Community and the centre will be used for cooking classes, arts, music and the after-school club.

Councillor Tim Crompton, Dudley's cabinet member for children's services, who officially cut the ribbon on the new centre, said: "Congratulations to the staff at Ham Dingle for making such a fantastic use of what was previously a caretaker's house."

"The smiles on the children's faces say it all as it's given them a fantastic place to do their arts, cookery and music."

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Benefits shake-up to leave more facing debt

CHANGES to benefits will mean thousands of council house tenants fall into debt.

An organisation in charge of council housing is warning people that they face being evicted unless they keep on top of their money as a new system sees them paid into their bank accounts, instead of benefits going to their landlords.

Wolverhampton Homes expects that Universal Credit will eventually affect around 8,500 of tenants in its 23,000 homes.

There were half a million working age people on benefits in February this year in the West Midlands. They included 30,125 in Dudley.

Universal Credit is replacing Jobseeker's Allowance, housing benefit, working tax credit, child tax credit, employment and support allowance and income support.

It will begin to be rolled out in the West Midlands from February, initially only to new claimants of working age. It means anyone on benefits at the time it is introduced will not be immediately affected, but anyone who loses their job or has to begin claiming welfare for another reason will be put on it.

Wolverhampton Homes is warning of a risk of people falling behind with their

payments as they will be responsible for using their benefits to pay the landlord, rather than the money being transferred directly to the housing provider.

Mark Henderson, director of housing, said: "There is a risk to the payment cycle. Some people will have large amounts of money paid each month that they would not have had before because it's currently paid weekly or fortnightly."

"There's a risk of temptation. With the initial small numbers we will have the resource to ring people one to one. But as numbers grow that won't be possible."

It is expected that around 30 per cent of tenants affected will find it difficult to pay. Universal Credit will be rolled out in full by 2017.

Customers create room for reflection



Simon Harwood, of Mary Stevens Trading, with (centre) Mike Brown, of Dreamland Beds, and Matron Claire Towns

MARY Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge has opened a new room for reflection following a generous donation of £25,000.

The money came from long-time supporter Mike Brown and the customers of his store, Dreamlands Beds in Mill Street, Brierley Hill. It will also be spent on new beds at the hospice.

Matron Claire Towns said: "We are extremely grateful to Mike and all his customers for their continued support of the hospice. The Peace Room is a fantastic new edition that will provide patients and relatives with a quiet space for private reflection."

Mr Brown said: "It's fantastic that over the last few years, donations from our customers have been given via our delivery service of taking old beds away and assembling new ones."

"It has raised more than £100,000 for Mary Stevens Hospice and has also made it possible for us to supply new beds for the hospice, vans for collection and fitting out hospice shops."

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Bishop backs advent calender

A CHARITY advent calender being sold to help raise money for a baby clinic in Kenya is being supported by the Bishop of Worcester.

The Rt Revd Dr John Inge is backing the Real Advent Calendar produced by the Meaningful Chocolate Company.

Officials are hoping to fund equipment for a baby clinic in Kenya by donating £10,000 from the sales.

Behind the calender's first giant window is a 32-page Christmas story-activity booklet designed to be used every day in Advent. The booklet gives more detail about the Christmas story and has seven advent challenges.

The calender also comes with 25 Fairtrade Belgian chocolates and a line of the Christmas story behind each of the foiled windows.

The Real Advent Calendar costs £3.99 and can be purchased by visiting the website www.realadvent.co.uk

Bliss family group on hunt for packers



Yvonne Artiss with youngest Bliss member Lexi Haffner

A CHARITY that supports families whose children spent time in neonatal or intensive care units will be holding a fundraising bag pack at Sainsbury's Merry Hill.

Dudley Bliss were selected as the supermarket's charity of the year back in July and, on December 20 and 21, parent-volunteers will be in store holding a bag-packing event to raise as much money as possible.

The search is also on for any extra volunteers willing to lend a hand for the day.

Parent-volunteer Stacey Tyler-Crisp said: "If anyone can help please get in touch as we need more than 10 people to add to our current list of bag packers to make the event possible."

Earlier this month, staff members Laura Tolley and Yvonne Artiss visited Dudley Bliss to take part in a baby sensory session where they handed over £100 worth of sensory toys bought from the money they had raised. Anyone interested in helping out can call dudleybliss@live.co.uk or visit www.dudleybliss.org.

The charity launched in April 2009.

Helicopter patrol along power lines

HELICOPTER patrols are being carried out across the Black Country and Worcestershire as part of checks on power lines.

Western Power Distribution (WPD) will be doing inspection work during December and January. The helicopters will be used to spot potential hazards on the high voltage overhead network.

Robin Tutchter, Chief Pilot at WPD, said: "Using a helicopter for patrols is the safest, fastest and most effective way to carry out checks on large sections of the network."

"Taking this bird's eye view enables us to check large areas quickly. We're able to spot potential hazards early so that our engineers can plan investment and maintenance work more effectively, and do any necessary work before it causes problems for our customers."

The patrols will be on the look-out for trees growing into overhead lines, which cause problems in stormy weather.

Respected astrologer and journalist has died aged 84

AN ASTROLOGER who forecast the Zeebrugge ferry disaster has died, aged 84.

Dennis Elwell of Stourbridge had feared shipping companies' safety procedures were not adequate.

Two weeks after P&O Ferries wrote to him dismissing his warning, their ship the Herald of Free Enterprise capsized off Zeebrugge, Belgium, in 1987. More than 190 people died in the tragedy, which led to new safety regulations in the British ferry industry.

Mr Elwell had also made predictions about dangers facing underground transport. In the same year there was a devastating fire in London's King's Cross station - something he had

warned of in an interview with The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star.

Sceptics criticised the basis for his predictions but Mr Elwell appeared on the BBC's Kilroy programme in 1987 and featuring in a Channel 4 documentary, Witness, in 2000 which examined the rising influence of astrology.

The father-of-four taught himself the basics of astrology before having an article he wrote on reincarnation published in the magazine Prediction at the age of 19. This set him on the path to a long career writing regularly for American Astrology, lecturing all over the world and writing a book and numerous articles on the subject. He set up a problem-solving consultancy, helping many people including celebrities, and also provided teaching to budding astrologers through

his distance learning course. His 1987 work Cosmic Loom is a recommended text among astrologers.

Mr Elwell also worked for 30 years as a journalist on the County Express, which later became the Stourbridge News.

He had lived in the Stourbridge area all his life and had recently moved to Abele View Care Home, where he was receiving round the clock support for vascular dementia.

Yet right up until the last few days of his life, Mr Elwell had fascinated staff by explaining the thinking behind theories of the stars and their influence on human lives.

Sarah Smith, one of Mr Elwell's four children, said: "My father was an original thinker who was widely respected in his field."

Two charged after fatal crash

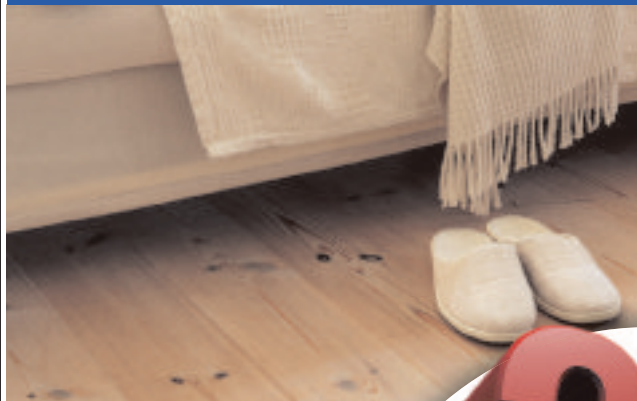
TWO men have been charged after a crash that killed a former King Edward VI College student. Rebecca McManus, 21, of Oldbury, was at a bus stop on Hagley Road West, Bearwood, when it was struck by a Mitsubishi said to have been driven by sales rep Sukvinder Mannan, 32.

Miss McManus died at the scene on May 31. A friend, also 21, was seriously hurt.

Mannan, of Roundhills Road, Halesowen, was arrested shortly after the crash. Computer engineer Inderjit Singh, from Cranbourne Avenue, Ettingshall, was arrested on June 15. Both were charged with causing death by dangerous driving and causing serious injury through dangerous driving. Mannan was charged with failing to provide a blood sample. Singh faces a count of failing to stop at the scene. They appear at Sandwell Magistrates Court on Tuesday.

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Barcelona and the Highlights of Catalonia

Seven days
Selected departure dates 2015

★ **PRICE FROM £749**

- Return flights
 - Six nights bed and breakfast accommodation
 - Three dinners
 - Guided tours of Barcelona and Tarragona
 - Timed and guided visit of Sagrada Família
 - Guided tour of Poblet Monastery
 - Visits to Girona, a Cava vineyard, and Montserrat's Benedictine monastery
 - Services of a tour manager
 - Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies
- Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

André Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra in Maastricht

Three days departing July 10

★ **PRICE FROM £269**

- Return coach travel and Channel crossings
 - Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation
 - Seated ticket to see André Rieu and The Johann Strauss Orchestra on the Vrijthof Square in Maastricht (ticket upgrades offered)
 - Visit to Maastricht
 - Services of a tour manager
 - Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies
- Five-day coach break plus Eurostar/air breaks also offered
Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Pompeii, Capri and the Bay of Naples

Eight days various departure dates 2015

★ **PRICE FROM £809**

- Return flights
 - Seven nights half-board accommodation in a choice of three and four star hotels
 - Guided tour of Pompeii and walking tour of Sorrento
 - Visit to Naples including the Archaeological Museum
 - Cruise to Capri
 - Visits to the volcano of Vesuvius and Ravello
 - Tour of the Amalfi coast
 - Services of a tour manager
 - Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies
- Certain entrance fees payable locally
Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

The Dawlish Railway and the Avocet Line

Four days departing March 27

★ **PRICE FROM £229**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Railway journey on the Riviera Line from Exeter to Paignton
- Cruise of the River Exe with cream tea
- Railway journey on the Avocet Line from Topsham to Exmouth
- Free time in Exmouth and Torquay
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Scarborough, Whitby and York

Four days departing April 10

★ **PRICE FROM £219**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Scarborough, Whitby, York and Harrogate
- Optional North Yorkshire Moors Railway excursion
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Call the Midwife

Two days departing May 16, Jul 25, Oct 3

★ **PRICE FROM £125**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit with entrance to London's Dockyard in Chatham, including a 90-minute guided Call the Midwife tour
- Visit to Canterbury
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Bletchley Park The Secrets of War

Two days departing May 23 and October 3

★ **PRICE FROM £119**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Bletchley Park
- Visit to Oxford
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

London Theatre breaks by coach

Two days selected weekend departure dates



★ **PRICE FROM £139.⁹⁵**

London is the natural home of theatre and the musical is king in the capital's world-famous West End. British musicals that prove a runaway success here often go on to triumph on Broadway and around the globe.

The winning combination of engaging writing, captivating stage design and commanding performance has enabled London theatres to achieve box office smashes time and time again. And it's the songs that make people return to the capital a number of times and some of the most well-known tunes have become part of the national canvas.

There are two options travelling by coach from which to choose, Saturday Night Theatre or a Theatre Weekend with dinner.

The Saturday Night theatre break, from £139.95, includes a ticket for the evening show, whereas the Theatre Weekend with dinner option starts from £149.95 and includes an evening meal following the matinee performance.

Both trips include return coach travel, a choice of theatre ticket from an extensive list of shows, overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in an outer-London four-star hotel, along with some free time in the capital for shopping or sightseeing.

Pick-ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The from price and price bands vary for each show - see brochure/web page for details.

Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

Valentines London break with a Queen of Hearts Afternoon Tea

Two days departing February 15

Pick of the week



★ **PRICE FROM £179**

Treat your loved one to a Valentines break to remember next year staying at a four-star hotel in the heart of the capital.

The highlight of this short break will surely be the Alice in Wonderland inspired afternoon tea, served in the renowned Scoff & Banter restaurant at the four-star Radisson Blu Edwardian New Providence Wharf Hotel, which has breathtaking river views overlooking the Thames.

With little 'eat me' labels and heart shaped sandwiches, it's a magical dining experience that brings the timeless novel to life.

Starting at Canary Wharf the Thames Clipper journey along the river takes in the sights of London at a leisurely pace. Cruise past Tower Bridge, HMS Belfast, the Tower of London and St Paul's Cathedral before disembarking at Embankment Pier, where there will be time to explore London at leisure.

Free time in Greenwich is also on the itinerary. Maybe explore one of London's best covered markets, with up to 120 stalls showing craft and design. Other free attractions here include the National Maritime Museum and Royal Observatory.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at the four-star Radisson Blu Edwardian New Providence Wharf hotel
- Queen of Hearts Afternoon Tea
- Thames Clipper from Canary Wharf to central London
- Visit to Greenwich
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

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Austrian Tyrol and Innsbruck

Eight days selected departures 2015



Head back in time, during the journey to Jenbach, on the Achenseebahn narrow gauge railway as it winds its way into the hills from the Inn Valley up to the Achensee Lake. The coal-fired locomotives are amongst the world's oldest and use rack assistance to surmount the steep gradient. A visit is then made to the historic village of Rattenburg, the Tyrols smallest municipality, with its medieval stone buildings and narrow streets.

A drive into nearby Bavaria leads to one of Germany's most famous monuments – Neuschwanstein Castle, with its impressive architecture and an inspiration for so many stories, where there is a guided tour.

The spa town of Merano, with its Belle Époque buildings and fine gardens set between the high mountain peaks, along with the regions capital Bolzano, which boasts many castles and fortified buildings, a historic centre and gothic cathedral, are both on the itinerary of the Italian Tyrol tour.

 **PRICE FROM £969**

Experience some of the world's most breathtaking alpine scenery whilst staying in the charming village of Seefeld – a perfect spot from which to explore the varied highlights of the Tyrol.

Just a short drive away is the Tyrolean capital of Innsbruck where a guided tour of this delightful city will introduce some of the historic architecture. See the famous Golden Roof, St Jakob's cathedral and the former Imperial Palace.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Return flights
 - Seven nights half-board accommodation
 - Guided sightseeing tour of Innsbruck
 - Entrance and guided tour of Stams Monastery and Neuschwanstein Castle
 - Journey on the Achensee Cog Steam Railway
 - Tour of the Italian Tyrol visiting Bolzano and Merano
 - Visit to Rattenburg
 - See the Oetz valley glaciers
 - Services of a tour manager
 - Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies
- Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)*

Pick of the week

Windsor Castle and Treasures from the Royal Archive

Two days departing January 21

 **PRICE FROM £119**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Windsor Castle and Treasures from the Royal Archives exhibition
- Visit to St Albans
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Florimania at Hampton Court Palace

Two days departing March 14

 **PRICE FROM £109**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Hampton Court Palace and gardens for Florimania
- Visit to Windsor
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Bath and Oxford Buy one get one free

Two days departing March 22

 **PRICE FROM £155**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit to Oxford
- Visit to Bath
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Jersey For single travellers

Five days departing March 23

 **PRICE FROM £349**

- Return flights
- Four nights half-board accommodation
- Return airport to hotel transfers in Jersey
- Welcome drink on arrival
- Half day island tour
- Dinner dance with entertainment
- No single room supplement

Organised by Modern Hotels (ABTA V3101, ATOL 0752)

Emmerdale Country and the Best of Yorkshire

Three days departing May 1, Jun 19, Sep 25

 **PRICE FROM £159**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Tours of Emmerdale and the Yorkshire Dales
- Short tour of Last of the Summer Wine country
- Visit to Holmfirth
- Visit to York
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

The Crown Jewels and Thames Dinner Cruise

Two days departing May 17 and Sept 20

 **PRICE FROM £169**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Entrance to the Tower of London including the Crown Jewels exhibition
- Evening cruise on the River Thames including a hot two-course buffet dinner with a glass of wine
- Free time in London
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Strawberry Fields Penny Lane and the Cavern Club

Three days departing May 29 and Sep 19

 **PRICE FROM £179**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Beatles coach tour and entrance to the Cavern Club
- Journey on the Ferry 'cross the Mersey
- Free time in Liverpool
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

In Search of the Northern Lights

Evening excursion departing January 21, February 16 and 18

 **PRICE FROM £199.⁹⁵**

- Pre-flight illustrated presentation by expert astronomers
- Flight in search of the Northern Lights of 3-3 3/4 hours
- Services of the astronomers on board
- Light refreshments on board
- Services of a tour manager

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782, ATOL 6081)

Carcassonne, Avignon and Provence

Six days various departure dates 2015

 **PRICE FROM £449**

- Return flights
- Five nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided walking tour and time to explore Carcassonne
- Full day visit to Avignon and the Roman Pont du Gard
- Canal du Midi cruise
- All coaching in France
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Air Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Krakow

Four days various departure dates 2015

 **PRICE FROM £419**

- Return flights
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided walking sightseeing tour of Krakow
- Visit to Wawel, the castle district
- Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau (included but optional)
- Optional tour of the Salt Mines
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Lake Garda Venice and Verona

Eight days various departure dates 2015

 **PRICE FROM £629**

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Tour of Lake Garda
- Guided sightseeing tours of Venice and Verona
- Tour of the Dolomites (with an optional cable car ride payable locally)
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)



Detecting a gem available on DVD

ON a comedy scene that seems to be getting increasingly cruel and vulgar, recent rural sitcom Detectorists was a welcome dose of gently-paced whimsy on BBC4.

Written and directed by Mackenzie Crook (from The Office), he and Toby Jones (Infamous/Marvelous) play a pair of metal detector enthusiasts who think they are in with a chance of discovering a buried treasure of Staffordshire Hoard proportions. They face competition from a rival metal detecting club, a bonkers landowner and flawed relationships with the opposite sex.

A nicely acted ensemble piece in a market town setting, if not seen it is worth discovering now on DVD.

Leon Burakowski

South songs will fill the Civic Hall

THE songs of The Beautiful South and new album What Have We Become will be heard by a full house at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Friday for Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott.

On Friday Peter Gabriel is at the LG Arena, Diversity dance at the NIA, and Gertcha duo Chas & Dave are at Birmingham Town Hall. Synth pop pair Erasure have filled the Civic Hall on Saturday, the same night Wolverhampton's Scott Matthews performs his haunting album Home Part 1 at Birmingham Town Hall. McBusted and Ed Sheeran are among Saturday's acts at Free Radio Live at the LG Arena.

Oh what a night as the Jersey Boys arrive for festive season

Giving Peace a chance

ROCK band Peace follow their acclaimed debut album In Love with their second album, Happy People, on February 9.

The guitar crashing lo-fi outfit bring their surly sound home to the West Midlands for a gig at Birmingham's Institute on January 24.

Droitwich brothers Harry and Sam Koisser joined forces with Doug Castle and Dom Boyce at Worcester Sixth Form College.

In 2014 the band played the main stage of Reading and Leeds festival, sold out numerous dates throughout the UK and released singles Money and Lost on Me.

Fans of Bombay Bicycle Club will get a preview of the new songs with Peace due to support them at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on December 10.



Happy People — Worcestershire rock band Peace are unveiling their 'scurry but beautiful' new album, mostly produced by Arctic Monkeys and Kasabian producer Jim Abbiss

JERSEY Boys has now been seen by over 19 million people worldwide and is firmly established as one of the London West End's most popular shows.

Now the show comes to Birmingham on tour, running at the New Alexandra Theatre from December 9 to January 4.

It tells the remarkable true story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons and their rise to stardom from the wrong side of the track. These four boys from New Jersey became one of the most successful bands in pop history, were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and sold 175 million records worldwide, all before they turned 30.

Telling their story from the 1950s to 70s, the show is packed with their hits, including Beggin', Sherry, Walk Like A Man, December, 1963 (Oh What a Night), Big Girls Don't Cry, My Eyes Adored You, Let's Hang On (To What We've Got), Bye Bye Baby, Can't Take My Eyes Off You, Working My Way Back to You, Fallen Angel, Rag Doll and Who Loves You.

Worldwide

Jersey Boys is the winner of 55 major awards worldwide, including the Olivier Award for Best New Musical. The show originally opened on Broadway in 2006, receiving the Tony Award for Best Musical. It is still running on Broadway, in Las Vegas and in the West End.

Joining West End star Tim Driesen as Frankie Valli are Stephen Webb, Sam Feriday and Lewis Griffiths, playing Tommy DeVito, Bob Gaudio and Nick Massi respectively. Matt Corner will play the role of Frankie Valli at certain performances. Also in the cast will be Sean Kingsley as Gyp DeCarlo, Matt Gillett as Bob Crewe, Nathaniel Morrison as Barry Belson and Damian Buhagiar as Joey Pesci, the early fan and 'go fer' who became a movie star.

The actual Frankie Valli brings the latest incarnation of The Four Seasons to Birmingham's Genting Arena (formerly the LG) on July 2 next year.



A scene from hit musical Jersey Boys

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, December 3, the Robin 2 at Bilston hosts seated show Jersey Boy with Stephen James performing the Frankie Valli story with the help of video projection.

The Mount Pleasant venue has more nostalgia on the way. From The Jam, featuring Jam bassist Bruce Foxton, celebrate the 35-year-old Settings Sons album tomorrow night (Friday). Then Nick Dagger and The Counterfeit Stones want to spend the night together on Saturday. Bad Manners bring boisterous ska on December 11, Ray Jackson's Lindisfarne play on December 15 and it's Merry Xmas Everybody from Dave Hill and Don Powell's Slade on December 18.

Popular ballet is a Christmas cracker

IT'S beginning to feel a lot like Christmas... especially now that The Nutcracker is arriving at Birmingham Hippodrome.

The Birmingham Royal Ballet's annual festive treat for its home city is a feel-good seasonal spectacular and a much-loved part of the build up to Christmas in the West Midlands.

It tells the story of a young girl, Clara, who is whisked off to a magical land on Christmas Eve after her brave Nutcracker soldier fights an army of rats. Highlights include the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Sir Peter Wright's The Nutcracker, featuring the beautiful music of Tchaikovsky, will be staged from tomorrow (Friday) until December 13.

Rocker Joe now faces worlds war

HE dazzled the nation paying tribute to his rock heroes Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath on The X Factor. Now former brick-layer and salesman Joe Whelan, from Wolverhampton, is to appear at the LG Arena as part of the final arena tour for Jeff Wayne's spectacular musical version of War of the Worlds.

The Martians arrive at the LG on Friday, December 5. Joe features alongside Jason Donovan, Westlife's Brian McFadden, X Factor winner Shayne Ward, West End star Carrie Hope Fletcher, a string orchestra and a hologram of Liam Neeson.

Let Us Entertain You!

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THE SHUGBOROUGH CHRISTMAS FAIR

Friday 28 Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 November

Come and enjoy some seasonal shopping in the fabulous setting of the Hall grounds where you'll be able to sample and buy everything from our wide range of arts, craft and gift stalls with anything from jewellery and other accessories including handicrafts hand made cards, photography candles, aromatherapy products, through to ceramics and wood turning. Food and drink would include wine, real-food as well as chocolates and many other confections. And there's an extra special seasonal treat in the magnificent Mansion House. It will re-open especially during the Christmas Fair, offering you a glimpse of how the Victorians decorated their grand houses for Christmas. The house will be filled with fresh flowers and lit by the light of hundreds of candles - the pièce de résistance being the magnificent candlelit 300-year-old chandelier. Shugborough Candlelit Mansion House will open from 11am to 4pm with the downstairs area decorated throughout with fresh flowers, Christmas decorations and trees.

The Fair is open between 10am - 4pm each day

Shugborough Estate Milford Staffordshire ST17 0XB

admission: £9 concessions: £7.50 (combined ticket includes admission to both House and Fair)

Single tickets will be available to purchase at the gate on the day at a cost of £5 adults, £4 concessions

children aged 12 and younger FREE if accompanied by an adult - admission discounts at oakleighfairs.co.uk/shugchrist

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Open Monday to Fridays: 8.30am - 5pm

Saturdays 9.00am - 5pm & Sundays: 9.30am - 5pm

(We are closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day)

How to find us!

Map showing location of Ashwood Nurseries near Kingswinford.

DIGITAL



CHOICE



Jimmy Carr

Jimmy Carr: Laughing & Joking (Channel 4, 10pm)
You may be surprised to know that there's a lot more to Jimmy Carr than a silly laugh and borderline offensive humour. Plenty more. Credit where credit is due after all: this man is a comedy genius with writing skills to boot – he's even penned material for Lily Savage, Bo Selecta! and Meet Ricky Gervais before now. However, for those who are more than familiar with Jimmy's work and aren't satisfied with his year-round tours and television efforts in that they're just not enough to satisfy your cravings, you'll no doubt be pleased to see that he's back on our screens tonight as, filmed in November of last year at London's Hammersmith Apollo, the award-winning funnyman performs his eighth live show.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets Donny Osmond. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **2.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Life Story. (R) **5.50** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **6.15** **Countryfile**. The team reports from Lancashire, where John Craven uncovers a landscape that was once a true spectacle, but is now almost lost to the ravages of time. **7.15** **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results**. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman reveal which couples are in the dance-off, and there are performances by Andre Rieu with Alfie Boe, and the Lord of the Dance troupe. **8.00** **Antiques Roadshow**. Fiona Bruce and the experts return to Towneley Hall near Burnley in Lancashire, where items include a collection of cut-throat razors, a mosaic and Lone Ranger memorabilia. **9.00** **Remember Me**. Care worker Hannah goes to visit Tom in hospital and is shocked to hear he has escaped, so detective Rob Fairbrother opens a missing persons investigation. Hannah pleads with him to search in Scarborough, haunted by the old folk songs she found in the pensioner's house, but the detective isn't convinced by her hunch and continues his search closer to home. Visiting Tom's home, he finds the ripped photo of the man as a boy – as well as documents revealing he once had a wife who was killed in tragic circumstances. Meanwhile, the post-mortem on social worker Alison Denning proves inconclusive – but oddly, it does show that the dead woman had water in her lungs. **10.00** **BBC News**: Regional News; Weather. **10.30** **Match of the Day 2**. Southampton v Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur v Everton. **11.30** **The Apprentice**. The entrepreneurs head to the Royal Bath & West Show. (R) **12.30** **Film**: *Color of Night*. (1994) **2.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.15** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.15** **Countryfile**. (R) **8.15** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.20** International Rugby Union. **1.20** Live Snooker: UK Championship. **5.30** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **6.15** **Flog It!** Charlie Ross and Mark Stacey value collectibles in Monmouth, Wales, and Paul Martin explores the countryside that inspired Laura Ashley's designs. (R) **7.00** **Secrets of the Castle with Ruth, Peter and Tom**. The team explores the art of medieval combat and the construction of a castle's defences, examining the ingenious features 13th-century builders came up with to withstand attacks. (R) **8.00** **The Mekong River with Sue Perkins**. The comedienne concludes her epic journey along the Southeast Asian river as she follows the Mekong through China to its source in the Himalayas. Last in the series. **9.00** **World's Greatest Food Markets**. Billingsgate merchant Roger Barton pits himself against traders at New Delhi's Azadpur fruit and vegetable market, which provides food for the whole of India. Last in the series. **10.00** **Russell Howard's Good News**. The comedian offers his perspective on stories dominating the media, whether on television, online or in print, and he is joined by a guest with an amazing tale to tell. (R) **10.30** **The Wrong Mans**. Sam and Phil take a wounded Marat to Phil's house, but with MI5 agent Smoke closing in on them, the hapless duo find they have become high-profile fugitives. (R) **11.00** **The Wrong Mans**. Sam and Phil realise they must put themselves right in the line of fire to expose the plot, save Bracknell, uncover double agents and rescue their loved ones. Last in the series. (R) **11.30** **Snooker: UK Championship**. Hazel Irvine presents highlights of the evening session from the Barbican Centre in York. **12.20** Snooker: UK Championship Extra. Extended highlights from today's matches. **2.20** Sign Zone: **Countryfile**. (R) **3.20** **Holby City**. (R) **4.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 **ciTV**: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.20** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.35** Mr Bear: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** Big Time Rush. **9.00** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **9.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** TV News: Weather. **11.35** **Film**: *Garry On Again Doctor*. (1969) **1.20** The Unforgettable Pat Phoenix. (R) **1.55** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **2.55** The X Factor. (R) **4.40** Midsomer Murders. (R) **6.30** **Regional Programme**: Weather. **6.45** **ITV News**: Weather. **7.00** **Keep It in the Family**. With this year's series of I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! well under way, six former residents of the jungle – Katie Price, Helen Flanagan, Joe Pasquale, Joe Swash, Kim Woodburn and Sinitta – provide assistance as two families go head to head in a series of fun-filled rounds. The stars each hold the clue to a big prize, from new cars to holidays in the sun, and face being sent through a trapdoor as the contestants decide whether to swap, drop or keep it in the family. Bradley Walsh hosts. Last in the series. **8.00** **The X Factor Results**. The remaining contestants wait with bated breath as Dermot O'Leary reveals who is safe and which acts will be battling it out in the sing-off for a place in next week's semi-final. **9.00** **I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!** Ant and Dec interview today's eliminated contestant about their time in the camp, their jungle likes and dislikes, and who they are tipping to win. But before that, the Geordie duo present the usual round-up of highlights from the past 24 hours as the celebrities struggle through another day of hardship in the bug-infested Australian wilderness. **10.05** **ITV News**: Weather. **10.20** **The Cube**. (R) **11.20** **Premiership Rugby Union**. Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures. **12.10** The Store. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **4.05** **ITV Nightscreen**. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 NFL: The American Football Show. (R) **7.15** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Jamie's Comfort Food. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory **2.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.35** The Simpsons. (R) **3.05** The Simpsons. (R) **3.35** **Film**: *Inkheart*. (2008) Fantasy adventure, starring Brendan Fraser. **5.45** **Film**: *Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs*. (2009) Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of John Leguizamo. **7.30** **Channel 4 News**. **8.00** **The Great Wall of China: The Hidden Story – Secret History**. With access to the first nationwide survey and state-of-the-art drones mapping the Great Wall of China, this documentary offers new evidence that reveals its extraordinary magnitude, rewrites its millennia-long history and decodes its complex signals system. Using cutting-edge chemistry, the programme also finds out which has kept the wall standing for so long – a simple cooking ingredient found in kitchens across the world. **9.00** **Homeland**. As the CIA thriller continues, Carrie organises a last-ditch operation, while Lockhart and Martha do their utmost to stall Inter-Services Intelligence. Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin, Tracy Letts and Laila Robins star. **10.00** **Jimmy Carr: Laughing & Joking**. Stand-up comedy with the host of 8 Out of 10 Cats, recorded at London's Hammersmith Apollo in November last year, featuring his familiar brand of near-the-knuckle humour. **11.05** **Alan Carr: Chatty Man**. Comedian and actor Russell Brand talks about his new book *Revolution*, and French DJ superstar David Guetta discusses his latest single. With music from Kiesza. (R) **12.05** **Confessions of a Doctor**. Eight doctors lift the lid on their working lives in the consulting room. (R) **1.05** According to Jim. (R) **1.25** American Football Live. Kansas City Chiefs v Denver Broncos (Kick-off 1.30am). Coverage of the week 13 fixture from Arrowhead Stadium, where the AFC West rivals face each other. **4.45** *Snowman* Triathlon. Action from Snowdonia National Park. (R) **5.10** Win It Cook It. (R) **5.35** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.35** Seaside Antics. **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Only the Little White Van. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Wandie and the Alien. **8.35** Zack and Quack. **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.20** LazyTown. (R) **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Access. (R) **10.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30** **Film**: *Noel*. (2004) Drama, starring Susan Sarandon. **3.20** **Film**: *Matchmaker Santa*. (2012) Romantic comedy, with Lacey Chabert and Adam Mayfield. **5.50** **Film**: *Annie Claus Is Coming to Town*. (2011) Christmas fantasy, starring Maria Thayer. **6.45** **5 News Weekend**. **6.50** **Film**: *Planet of the Apes*. (2001) An astronaut crash-lands on a strange planet and is captured and enslaved by the ruling race of highly intelligent apes. Luckily, he is helped by a sympathetic chimpanzee – but then discovers a shocking secret. Remake of the 1960s sci-fi adventure, directed by Tim Burton and starring Mark Wahlberg, Helena Bonham Carter and Tim Roth, and featuring a cameo appearance from the original film's star Charlton Heston. Edited for language. **9.00** **Film**: *The Expendables 2*. (2012) Premiere. Mercenary leader Barney Ross is recruited by the CIA to recover a top-secret package, only to come to blows with a rival band of hired guns. Barney swears revenge when the other faction kill his protegee, and leads his men on a mission to stop their enemies taking over a former Soviet nuclear facility. Action thriller sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone. **11.05** **Film**: *Universal Soldier*. (1992) Two dead soldiers reanimated in a military experiment recognise each other as old enemies and pursue their vendettas. Sci-fi thriller, with Jean-Claude Van Damme and Dolph Lundgren. **1.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Gadget Show. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **8.00** Doctor Who **9.00** Edinburgh Comedy Fest Live 2012 **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Some Girls **12.00** Life Is Toff **12.30** Edinburgh Comedy Fest Live 2012 **1.30** Sweat the Small Stuff **2.00** The Revolution Will Be Televised
BBC Four
7.00 The Great War **7.40** Britain's Wild Places **8.00** The Day of the Triffids **9.00** Blondie: One Way or Another **10.10** **Film**: *Ca\$h* (2008) **11.50** Pink Floyd: Wish You Were Here **12.50** Play It Loud: The Story of the Marshall Amp **1.50** Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC
ITV2
11.30 The X Factor **1.25** The Xtra Factor **2.25** Kiesza: The Hot Desk **2.40** **Film**: *Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang* (2010) **4.50** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **5.50** **Film**: *She's the Man* (2006) **8.00** Scorpion **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.05** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.05** Educating Jools Essex: Space Cadet **12.05** Two and a Half Men **1.00** Dads **1.25** *Face Reaction* **2.00** The Vampire Diaries **2.45** Kiesza: The Hot Desk
ITV3
11.20 A Touch of Frost **1.35** **Film**: *Columbo: Negative Reaction* (1974) **3.40** **Film**: *The Nun's Story* (1959) **6.45** Inspector Morse **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Wycliffe **12.10** **Film**: *The Elephant Man* (1980) **2.20** Judge Judy **3.05** *ITV3 Nightscreen* **3.40** Emmerdale
ITV4
12.45 Live Darts. **5.00** Alias Smith and Jones **6.00** Cheers **8.35** World of Sport: Dare Devils **6.45** Live Darts. The Players Championship. **11.00** **Film**: *Rambo: First Blood Part II* (1985) **1.00** *Minder* **2.00** Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.30 Made in Chelsea **1.30** How I Met Your Mother **2.00** **Film**: *Chalet Girl* (2011) **3.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **4.00** Melissa & Joey **5.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.30** The Inbetweeners: Their Favourite Episodes **11.45** The Inbetweeners Go Global **12.50** Drifters **1.25** Bad Robots **1.55** New Girl **2.45** Rules of Engagement
Film4
11.00 Broken Lance (1954) **1.00** Bride and Prejudice (2004) **3.15** Ramona and Beezus (2010) **5.20** Scrooged (1988) **7.15** Airplane! (1980) **9.00** The Cold Light of Day (2012) **10.55** Premonition (2007) **12.50** A Story of Children and Film (2013) **3.05** Ciose

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MONDAY
The National Tree, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A loving father plants a tree the day his son is born. Years later, when the boy is a teenager, it is selected to be the national Christmas tree, so father and son embark on a life-changing journey across the country to deliver it for replanting at the White House. Drama, starring Andrew McCarthy and Evan Williams. (2009)

TUESDAY
Public Enemies, ITV, 10.40pm
Fact-based crime drama following the last years of John Dillinger, whose run of bank robberies and daring prison escapes in the 1930s make him both America's most wanted criminal and a hero to a public struggling through the Depression. His career is soon to be cut short by the birth of the FBI, which assigns its most celebrated agent to bring him to justice. Directed by Michael Mann and starring Johnny Depp, Christian Bale and Marion Cotillard. (2009)



We Own the Night, Friday, ITV, 11.15pm

WEDNESDAY
The 13th Warrior, BBC1, 12.10am
A disgraced nobleman exiled from his Baghdad home joins forces with Norse warriors at the close of the first millennium, and ends up battling seemingly invincible attackers during an epic journey. Action adventure adapted from the novel Eaters of the Dead by Michael Crichton, starring Antonio Banderas, Diane Venora, Dennis Storhi, Vladimir Kulich and Omar Sharif. (1999)

THURSDAY
Die Another Day, ITV, 10.40pm
James Bond is suspended from duty after being taken hostage in North Korea, but goes against orders to track down those who betrayed him. During the pursuit of the terrorist he was investigating before his capture, he discovers a connection with a British billionaire who has constructed a devastating orbital weapon. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan. (2002)

FRIDAY
We Own the Night, ITV, 11.15pm
The manager of a New York nightclub is caught between two worlds – while his brother and father are both highly respected police officers, most of his clientele are gangsters. Despite his best efforts not to get involved, he is forced to choose sides when gang violence escalates and his sibling is targeted by a hitman. Crime drama, starring Joaquin Phoenix, Mark Wahlberg and Robert Duvall. (2007)

New series proves to be a breeze for Richard

Fashion may come and go, but one constant in the UK is our obsession with the weather. Maybe it's the fact that as an island so small we don't generate our own weather systems but have to make do with cast-offs from other countries. In a new series, Richard Hammond will be revealing the hidden secrets at the heart of some of the world's most extreme weather, experiencing extraordinary phenomena first-hand. Okay, some of the dialogue may be a little redundant, such as "Wherever you live on the planet, weather shapes your world."

That aside, Hammond will be 'stripping weather back to its basics', and in this wind-centric opener he explains how wind begins.

He kicks things off with another spot of slightly awkward dialogue: "There is a powerful, invisible force that moves around us, almost unnoticed..."

Hmmm. While the script could have done with more levity in the Top Gear vein, WWRH excels in the visuals department, whether it's glorious high definition cloudscape or obligatory shots of devastation.

There are some scenes which look like a mash up of Twister and The Dark Knight as Hammond attempts to measure the speed of a tornado.

His journey starts in New Hampshire, USA.

You might think of the region as a world of sunshine, russet leaves in the autumn and moneyed Americans enjoying expensive past times.

However, the state can also look like something from the Arctic as Hammond discovers when he braves temperatures of -45C on top of Mount Washington.

On April 12, 1934, the local weather station measured one of the fastest wind speeds ever recorded on land: 231mph.

Remarkably, winds in the area hit hurricane force more than 100 days in the year.

Going outside is not advisable unless you're covered from head to toe in well insulated protective gear. And don't forget your goggles, unless you want frozen eyeballs.

Given the fact a light wind on your face measures around 5mph; 15mph

is enough to turn an umbrella inside out; 45mph can wreck a garden fence, and 55mph can bring a shed down, the sight of Hammond in 65 to 85mph winds is enough to make you put an extra bar on the fire.

A good job there's subtitles as our host struggles to get his words out. Just a pity he doesn't tie his hat on.

Later, there's an experiment to create a fire whirlwind, and a tense moment when it looks like a pricey camera may have been lost in the vertical inferno.

Clearly a glutton for punishment, Richard decides to stand in the middle of a man-made tornado at the 'WindEEE' Research Institute in Canada. It's the only place on Earth which can duplicate the dynamics of a tornado.

Little wonder Hammond gets goosebumps, and not just because he's a bit chilly.

If this leaves you hungry for more, don't miss next week's edition when 'Hamster' attempts to capture a cloud in the hope of seeing how much it weighs. Yes, really.



Wild Weather with Richard Hammond, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

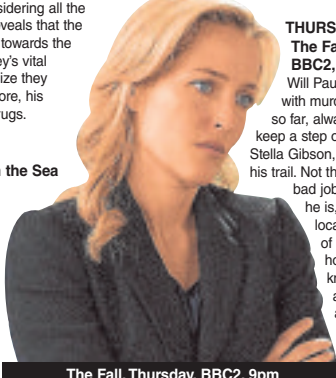
MONDAY
The British Property Boom Channel 4, 8pm
House prices have been rising at record speeds around the UK, and naturally that has far-reaching effects for many of us. This week's show investigates the impact on buyers and sellers, with first-time buyers such as Dionne used as an example of how hard it can be to get on the property ladder. She faces having to ask her retired mother, Denise, to sell the family home to stand a chance of buying her own home. We also meet Barbara, a Hackney resident who has been priced out of the area where she was born. Plus, there's a look at some of the overseas buyers purchasing investment flats in the capital that could otherwise have been snapped up by locals. And if you're wondering what the smallest house on the market in London will cost, then brace yourselves. A property measuring just six feet wide is on the market for a whopping £235,000.

TUESDAY
Autopsy: The Last Hours of Elvis Presley Channel 5, 9pm
Dr Richard Shepherd has been linked to some of the most iconic celebrities in history – it's just a shame that none of them are alive to enjoy his company. The forensic pathologist is now famous

for his in-depth televised autopsies in which he analyses the untimely deaths of famous folk notorious for their often self-inflicted ill health. Tonight, as the title suggests, he kicks of this new series by focusing on Elvis Presley. Robert picks through the facts surrounding the singer's demise at his Memphis home Graceland in August 1977, using accounts from his best friend, his cousin and his private nurse, as well as considering all the medical facts. The programme reveals that the post-mortem report showed that towards the end of his life, nearly all of Presley's vital organs were almost double the size they should have been, and what's more, his system was full of prescription drugs.

WEDNESDAY
Living on the Edge: Blood in the Sea Channel 5, 7pm
New series. Anthropologist and adventurer Chris Terrell travels to the world's most extreme environments to find out how and why people live in the grip of nature at its harshest. In the first edition, he heads to Mauritania to spend time with fishermen who work the rich but dangerous waters off the north-

west coast of Africa. Travelling from Nouadhibou in the north to the capital Nouakchott in the south, Chris and his interpreter Ahmed Taleb witness the sight of a thousand boats fighting to get through the violent surf as it breaks on to the beaches and also discover a secret paradise where the desert meets the sea and millions of birds feed on the teeming fish.



The Fall, Thursday, BBC2, 9pm

THURSDAY
The Fall BBC2, 9pm
Will Paul Spector get away with murder? He has done so far, always managing to keep a step or two ahead of Stella Gibson, the detective on his trail. Not that she's doing a bad job – she knows who he is, she just can't locate this slipperiest of customers. He, however, seems to know where she is all the time – and as a result, Gibson suspects he's witnessed her confrontation

with Burns in her hotel room. But how will Burns react when she tells him? As if the idea of Spector keeping tabs on her isn't disturbing enough, she then realises he's been visiting one of his surviving victims in hospital – but this fact allows her to finally set up a surveillance operation on him. But the need to find the evidence that will bring about Spector's arrest intensifies when a body matching the description of Rose Staggs is discovered.

FRIDAY
The Martin Lewis Money Show ITV, 8pm
For a man who's become synonymous with great money saving ideas, you'd think Martin Lewis would be on a par with some of the cash-hungry wannabes in The Apprentice, but not a bit of it. "I certainly don't preach about how to make money; that's not really my thing at all, or my passion to be honest," he explains. "I still don't consider myself to be an entrepreneur. I'm somebody who set up a website and I consider myself to be a journalist and consumer campaigner." This week, Martin helps customers reclaim lost cash after switching energy suppliers. He also reveals how companies don't have to give this money back unless they are asked. Plus, the eponymous host reveals how to buy high-street fashion abroad, take a budget flight back to the UK and still make a saving.



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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Very busy describing 22 Across perhaps (2,4,2,5)
8. An ironclad excuse for not buying luxuries (8)
9. They're neat! (4)
10. Take off a garment I'd first put on back-to-front (6)
12. Smart evergreen (6)
14. Such games are not openly played (6)
16. Ring again to cancel (6)
18. It has caused many deaths in Vietnam (4)
20. Pains grip sick Greek hero (8)
22. It was frightful, as a rule! (5,2,6)

Down

1. Perform the state a monetary service (8)
2. It's entertainment value is questionable (6)
3. Become engaged in some sharp practice (4)
4. He works so that others may play (8)
5. Disturbance of increasing volume (6)
6. On which many initial declarations of love have been made (4)
11. He fights in the ring (8)
13. Does she preach no involvement? (8)
15. Royal house that is divided internally, naturally (6)
17. Comrade has an attempt not worth considering (6)
19. Not now the capital of Norway (4)
21. Has old fashioned style (4)

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Quick Clues:

Across

7. Speedily (13)
8. Lees (8)
9. Cistern (4)
10. Crash (4-2)
12. Drub (6)
14. Muscular (6)
16. Summary (6)
18. Snatch (4)
20. Innate (8)
22. Stupidity (13)

Down

1. Outside (8)
2. Yearn for (6)
3. Dreadful (4)
4. Despot (8)
5. Assemble (6)
6. Scheme (4)
11. Bodily (8)
13. Monotony (8)
15. Move unsteadily (6)
17. Powerful (6)
19. Space (4)
21. Conceal (4)

Sudoku

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Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

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LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Isis; 8 Conviction; 9 Draw-back; 10 Magi; 12 Befell; 14 Please; 15 Dimple; 17 Theory; 18 Ages; 19 Bulletin; 21 Oppressors; 22 Eats. Down: 2 Shortening; 3 Scow; 4 On call; 5 Pick up; 6 Stampede; 7 Anti; 11 Go straight; 13 Exposure; 16 Emboss; 17 Tallow; 18 Atom; 20 Ease. QUICK - Across: 1 Seem; 8 Answer back; 9 Babyhood; 10 Camp; 12 Cajole; 14 Deride; 15 Bellow; 17 Modern; 18 Snug; 19 Contrite; 21 Counteract; 22 Aunt. Down: 2 Excavation; 3 Many; 4 Ashore; 5 Needed; 6 Obscured; 7 Skip; 11 Moderation; 13 Obliging; 16 Wicked; 17 Manual; 18 Sick; 20 Rota.

Quiz

1. Name the famous showbiz parents of entertainer Liza Minnelli.

2. In which city was Christopher Columbus born?

3. Of which element is diamond a form?

4. What was the name of Donald Campbell's record-breaking boats and cars?

5. Of which ocean does the Kara Sea form a part?
6. What was the first nuclear-powered submarine?

7. Who, in 1956, was the first European Footballer of the Year?

8. Which musical instrument evolved from the sackbut?

9. To which family of birds do canaries and siskins belong?

10. Who was the first English actor to be knighted?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Collie; 2 Colette; 3 Scottish; 4 Storm petrel; 5 Inner Hebrides; 6 Lulu; 7 Munich; 8 George II; 9 Gary Mabbutt; 10 William Randolph Hearst.

Niner: POLICEMAN

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

4823 gives a wild animal,
7851239 gives another wild animal,
26389278 gives a dog.

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We've listened

Your local **Dudley & Wyre Forest** edition has returned on Saturday

We have listened to reader feedback and reintroduced the Express & Star Dudley & Wyre Forest edition on Saturday. You will notice significant improvements. Whilst retaining the 'Weekend' supplement, we have also included lots more local news, views and sports coverage.

Get the Express & Star delivered six nights for only £1.50 per week*, call Freephone 0800 146 540 quoting reference: Rover

*Your paper will be delivered for only £1.50 per week for the first two months and discounted to £3.00 thereafter by signing up to Direct Debit. The discounted £3.00 per week is based upon current cover price. Includes free delivery. Direct Debit collections are made monthly in arrears. This offer is not available to existing Direct Debit customers & applies where delivery network is in place.

Prime location near village for family home



A DETACHED family residence in Gospel End Road, Sedgley, is within walking distance of the village centre.

It is for sale through Swinscoes at £249,950 with no chain. The property represents excellent value and offers flexible living space with accommodation comprising entrance hall, lounge, an open plan and recently fitted dining kitchen, utility room, play room/sitting room and downstairs WC on the ground floor. On the first floor there are four bedrooms, two en suite shower rooms and a bathroom.

For further information contact Swinscoes on 01902 672274 or visit the website at www.swinscoes.co.uk



This traditional semi has lovely views of parkland



IN a peaceful position, this traditional-style semi-detached home in Monument Avenue, Wollescote, in Stourbridge, has superb distant views over Stevens Park to the rear.

It is for sale through Jon Stanier at £179,950.

Having gas central heating and double glazing and stripped pine doors, this three-bedroomed property also has a white bathroom suite with a separate shower cubicle.

There is a hall, lounge, dining room, lobby, WC, kitchen with separate dining area and patio door, and there is a cellar.

An elevated terrace with has delightful parkland views and steps down to a garden.

Call the agents on (01384) 77877 or visit www.jonstanier.co.uk website.



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WORDSLEY



CROWNOAKES DRIVE

FOR SALE £124,995
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SEDGLEY



LONG MEADOW DRIVE

FOR SALE £184,500
Link Detached Family Home. Comprises of: Two Reception Areas, Kitchen, Utility Room, Three Bedrooms and Family Bathroom. Benefits include: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, GARAGE.

WOLLASTON



LARKHILL ROAD

FOR SALE £144,950
Refurbished property finished to a very high standard. Comprises of: Entrance Hall, Ground Floor WC, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, GARAGE.

UPPER GORNAL



HILL STREET

FOR SALE £73,950
Nicely Presented Leasehold First Floor One Bedroom Flat Comprising of Entrance hall, Lounge, Kitchen with built in cooker, Bedroom, Bathroom. Benefits include Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

COSELEY



ROSEVILLE PRECINCT

£375 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

LYE



BANK STREET

£525 pcm*
Terrace Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Large Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Rear Gardens

GORNAL



EVE LANE

£370 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage

GREAT BRIDGE



EAGLE PLACE

£370 pcm*
Top Floor Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Secure Entrance

GORNAL



BARR STREET

£545 pcm*
End Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Unfurnished, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating

WORDSLEY



COLDSTREAM DRIVE

£525 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Driveway, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

TIPTON



DUDDY PORT ROAD

£395 pcm*
Ground Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off road parking, Maintained communal grounds, Unfurnished

LYE



LOVE LANE

£395 pcm*
Top Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Allocated Parking, Communal Grounds, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, UNFURNISHED.

WORDSLEY



KENILWORTH CLOSE

£650 pcm*
Semi Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage

HALESOWEN



ATTWOOD STREET

£550 pcm*
Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazed, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Rear Garden

COSELEY



LILIAN GROVE

£750 pcm*
End Terrace House, Lounge, Kitchen, Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Off Road parking, Front & Rear Garden, Unfurnished

SEDGLEY



HAMILTON CLOSE

£395 pcm*
Detached House, Entrance, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Single Garage, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.

KINGSWINFORD



BLenheim ROAD

£695 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom with shower, Three Bedrooms, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, UNFURNISHED

LAKESIDE



LAKESIDE COURT

£510 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished.

PENSNETT



COMMONSIDE

£525 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens

SWINDON



HIGH STREET

£450 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Parking at Rear

KINGSWINFORD



LABURNUM ROAD

£435 pcm*
Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating

KINGSWINFORD



BARTIC AVENUE

£395 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

BRIERLEY HILL



FOXDALE DRIVE

£455 pcm*
Cluster Style House, Lounge, Entrance, One Bedroom, Kitchen with shower, Front Garden, Allocated Parking, Double Glazing, NO DSS/NO PETS, Unfurnished

NETHERTON



PURLIN WHARF

£525 pcm*
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Hot hatch is a crazy riot

By James Parker

Take one Fiat 500, add a crazy turbocharged engine, spicy bodykit and wait for the fireworks. Fiat's evergreen 500 has been turned into a fire-breathing hot hatch before by legendary firm Abarth, but the latest version is now a permanent addition to the range.

Available in semi-sensible Turismo or the 100 per cent barmy Competizione guise tested here, the Abarth 500 is not for the faint of heart.

There's a turbocharged 1.4-litre petrol unit up front that offers a healthy 158bhp but more significantly 170lb.ft of torque. The exterior wears a seriously tough bod-



ylkit and gorgeous alloy wheel options, while there's stiffer suspension and uprated brakes too. There's some interesting touches inside too, such as the attractive metal-topped gearlever.

It's hard not to love the Abarth 500's looks, even though from some angles it is almost comically pumped up.

From a rational point of view, it has the proportions of a roller-skate, with a short wheelbase, big wheels and a minimal ride height, but it just makes you want to get in and drive it.

Any notion that the standard 500 is a car 'just for girls' is dismissed in a flash when it's turned into an Abarth. Those in the know recognise the badge and those that don't are intrigued.

Don't forget that the Abarth is still a city car, however much its transformation has rendered it better suited to the open road.



.....
'Drive the 595 in the manner it deserves and you'll revel in the gloriously torquey engine, the raucous exhaust note and the way in which it dives into bends.'

So up front there is a respectable amount of space for adults but the driving position is better suited to those under six feet in height. In the rear it's kids or adults who are willing, rather than pure luxury.

This particular 595 had the optional leather bucket seats, which are terrifically supportive and look superb. In fact it's very easy to be carried away with the options list, especially when the end result is so much fun.

Drive the 595 in the manner it deserves and you'll revel in the gloriously torquey engine, the raucous exhaust note and the way in which it dives into bends with

limitless enthusiasm. It's a car that works best when you chuck it about rather than use a delicate hand. Do so and it's a complete riot, as well as remarkably quick. Turn down the wick and it's a little more like hard work. The great handling comes from the stiff suspension which means bumps are

There's actually quite a bit of competition at this price level, and on the one hand the 595 Competizione is far from cheap.

However, it does come with a lot of kit too; items like Xenonheadlights and the gloriously exhaust system are all standard.

Go mad with the options list and you can break the £20k mark.



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Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Swift range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 41.5-46.3 (6.8-6.1), Extra Urban 57.6-64.2 (4.9-4.4), Combined 50.4-56.5 (5.6-5.0), CO₂ emissions 128-116 g/km and for the Suzuki SX4 range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 32.5-42.8 (8.7-6.6), Extra Urban 50.4-60.1 (5.6-4.7), Combined 42.2-53.3 (6.7-5.3), CO₂ emissions 155-139 g/km and for the Suzuki Splash range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 40.9-50.4 (6.9-5.6), Extra Urban 56.5-67.3 (5.0-4.2), Combined 49.6-60.1 (5.7-4.7), CO₂ emissions 131-109 g/km and for the Suzuki Alto range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 43.5-54.3 (6.5-5.2), Extra Urban 65.7-74.3 (4.3-3.8), Combined 55.4-65.7 (5.1-4.3), CO₂ emissions 118-99 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *Model shown: Swift SZ4 available from £12,199 (Metallic paint available at £430). *VAT free offer on Swift range: Swift 1.2 SZ2 3dr available from £8,999, including a customer saving of £1,800 to Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr 4x4 available at £13,699 including customer saving of £2,740 which is equivalent to the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £10,799 (SZ2 3dr) and £16,439 (SZ4 5dr 4x4). VAT Free offer excludes Swift Sport. *Model shown: SX4 SZ5 available from £13,249 (Metallic paint available at £430). *VAT free offer on SX4 range: SX4 1.6 SZ3 available from £10,495, including customer saving of £2,100 to SX4 SZ5 4x4 available at £13,249 including customer saving of £2,650 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £12,595 (1.6 SZ3) and £15,899 (1.6 SZ5 4x4). *Model shown: Splash SZ4 available from £9,899 (Metallic paint available at £415). *VAT free offer on Splash range: Splash 1.0 SZ2 available from £7,999, including customer saving of £1,600 to Splash 1.2 SZ4 A/T available at £10,645 including customer saving of £2,129 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £9,599 (SZ2) and £12,774 (SZ4 A/T). *Model shown: Alto SZ4 available from £7,999 (Metallic paint available at £399). *VAT free offer on Alto range: Alto 1.0 SZ available from £5,999, including customer saving of £1,200 to Alto 1.0 SZ4 A/T available at £8,625 including customer saving of £1,724 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £7,199 (SZ) and £10,349 (SZ4 A/T). VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. VAT Free offer excludes Swift Sport. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st October 2014 to 31st December 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.





Super luxury car returns

It may have disappeared with a whimper but Mercedes has announced it's reintroducing its super-luxury Maybach nameplate next year.

In the face of modest sales and stiff competition from the likes of Bentley and Rolls-Royce, Mercedes' first attempt at reintroducing the premium historic marque wasn't the success

the German firm had hoped for. This time around, and helped by a newer, more accomplished base model S-Class platform to work with, Mercedes is promising levels of luxury and performance not seen from the brand for some time.

Now positioned as a sub-brand and no longer a standalone marque, industry insiders are expecting Mercedes to roll out extra long wheelbase versions

of the S-Class reminiscent of the firm's iconic Pullman variants from the past.

There's no word yet on price, but with the regular range-topping S-Class easily breaking the £100,000 barrier, don't expect too much change from twice that once you've factored in the all-important cost options.

More details – and the all-important car – are expected to be revealed later this year ahead of a 2015 launch.

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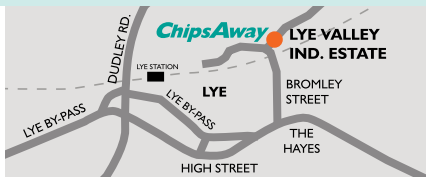
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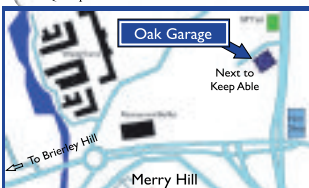
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61 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ Beige 5k	£8,995	57 207 1.4 S SW Est Silver 37k	£4,995
61 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ Blue 25k	£8,295	61 3008 1.6 HDI Active EGC Black 34k	£8,995
11 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ Green 12k	£8,295	61 3008 1.6 HDI Sport Black 5k	£10,995
61 C4 G Piccas 1.6 HDI VTR+ EGS Blue 33k	£9,995	61 3008 1.6 HDI Sport EGC Brown 23k	£9,795
61 C4 G Piccas 1.6 HDI VTR+ EGS Grey 21k	£10,995	61 308 1.6 HDI Access 5dr Grey 19k	£8,995
61 C4 G Piccas 1.6 HDI VTR+ EGS 1800 Miles	£12,795		
61 C4 G Piccas 1.6 HDI VTR+ Silver 14k	£11,495	Renault	
57 C4 G Piccas 1.6 HDI VTR+ EGS Blue 52k	£5,995	60 Clio 1.5 DCI Dyn TomTom Est Grey 13k	£7,495
59 C6 2.7 HDI Exclusive Auto Grey	£8,495	61 Gr Modus 1.5 DCI Dyn Silver 4k	£7,795
57 C6 2.7 HDI Lignage Auto Silver 61k	£7,295	61 Gr Modus 1.6 Dynamique Auto 15k	£7,295
61 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTX Red 86k	£3,795	08 Scenic 1.6 Dynamique Gold 55k	£3,795

Ford	Retail:	Vauxhall	Retail:
11 C-Max 1.6 TI-VCT Zetec White 34k	£8,995	60 Corsa 1.2 Exclusiv Silver 27k	£5,995
61 Fiesta 1.2 Zetec Blue 5k	£8,995	62 Corsa 1.2 SE Silver 14k	£8,495
60 Fiesta 1.2 Zetec White 12k	£8,295	11 Meriva 1.7 CDTi Exc Auto Blue 29k	£6,995
11 Fiesta 1.4 Titanium Auto Vision Blue 24k	£8,295	61 Meriva 1.7 CDTi Exc Auto Silver 19k	£7,795
11 Focus 1.6 Zetec Black 20k	£9,495	61 Meriva 1.7 CDTi Exc Silver 11k	£7,495
10 Fusion 1.4 TDCI Zetec Grey 24k	£6,995	61 Meriva 1.7 CDTi SE Brown 35k	£7,995
55 Fusion 1.6 Zetec Auto Blue 36k	£3,995	11 Zafira 1.6 Exclusiv Red 31k	£7,795
		11 Zafira 1.7 CDTi Exc Ultra Blue 25k	£8,795

Nissan	Retail:	All Motability Vehicles are	Other	Retail:
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62 Note 1.4 N-Tec+ Blue 5k	£9,495	- 1 Owner from New	13 Hyundai 120 1.2 Active Grey 12k	£8,495
08 Note 1.6 Acenta R Auto Red 26k	£5,795	- Guaranteed low Mileage	12 Hyundai 130 1.6 CRDI Active Auto Grey 32k	£9,495
61 Note 1.6 N-Tec Auto Blue 36k	£7,495		12 Proton Satria 1.6 Neo GSX 3dr Orange 18k	£5,495
61 Note 1.6 N-Tec Auto Red 5k	£7,995		11 Seat Leon 1.6 TDI CR SE Auto Red 12k	£9,795
10 Note 1.6 Tekna Auto Blue 23k	£7,495		61 Skoda Roomster 1.2 TSI SE Auto Black 14k	£8,995
61 Note 1.6 Tekna Auto Caffè Latte 11k	£8,495		05 Suzuki Wagon 1.3 R+ VVT Red 42k	£2,995
59 Qashqai 1.5 DCI Acenta Black 43k	£9,795		61 Toyota Verso 1.6 V-Matic T2 7 Seats Blue 8k	£9,995
61 Qashqai 1.5 DCI Acenta Red 24k	£11,495		06 VW Golf 1.4 S 3dr Black 79k	£4,495
61 Qashqai 1.6 Acenta Black 11k	£11,995		63 VW Golf 1.2 TSI 105 S DSG Silver 2k	£14,795
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DRIVETIME



Tesla now in the Midlands

Electric car maker Tesla continues its expansion in the UK with the launch of a new West Midlands-based store and six 'Supercharger' re-charging points.

A five-minute drive from A45 and A38, the Tesla Birmingham retail and service centre in Digbeth is the firm's fourth UK store.

By the end of 2014, customers will be able to visit Tesla stores and service centres across the country. The

company is currently recruiting for upcoming sales and service facilities in Manchester, Bristol, Newcastle and Edinburgh.

The company also continues to expand its charging network, with six Supercharging sites now open.

In London, three new Supercharging sites at Canary Wharf, Tower Bridge and Westfield White City add to locations at Portman Square and Royal Victoria Docks.

As well as Tesla's existing site in Birmingham, the company has added

Reading, Bristol and Edinburgh to its network. Within the next six months, the company claims Model S drivers will be able to drive the length of the UK relying only on Superchargers.

Commenting on the company's progress, Georg Ell, Tesla's country director for the UK and Ireland, said: "We are working on additional London locations with new sites to be announced shortly. Our plan for routes around the UK is also under way and we now have four locations outside of the capital."

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The post would suit a recent graduate or experienced person who is dynamic and has a passion for sharing and guiding students in their learning.

We are a school of 560 secondary age students in Stourbridge. Our Independent Learning Centre provides support to learning throughout the school day using both ICT and library based resources.

The post is full time, 37 hours per week for 39 weeks of the Year. The salary is in the range of Local Government Employees, Scale 6 (£17,182 to £18,844).

The successful candidate will be able to work independently and interact effectively with secondary age children.

For further information please contact: Mrs A Cherrington
Closing date: Friday 5 December 2014

Pedmore Technology College and Community School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children & young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



8 Motoring

cars over £1500

AUDI A3 SPORTBACK

2.0 TDI

54 reg, 111,500 miles, SH, 18ins alloys, half leather, 5-dr, CD player, metallic black, EW, very good condition, MoT, loads of extras.

£3,450 ono.

01384 359152 or

07806 668989.

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FORD FIESTA 2010, 1600 diesel sports, full leather, traction control, parking sensors, 12 months MoT, £6,500. 07787 412992.



FORD FOCUS C-MAX
ZETEC

2004, diesel, automatic, grey, 57,000 miles, ABS, EW, electric mirrors, air con, FSH, alarm, long MoT, central locking, PAS, tax, Alloys, CD, immaculate

£2,100

07811 340605

FORD FOCUS ESTATE 1.8 TDI. 2002, silver, 112k, FSH, immaculate, £1,650. Genuine callers only. Telephone 07850 330251.

ESTATE

JAGUAR XTYPE SPORT 2004, 130k, blue, abs, electric windows/mirrors, air bag, a/c, alarm, MoT, c/l, pas, diesel, alloys, Bose stereo/CD, leather interior, towbar, dog guard, new clutch/flywheel.
£2,000 ono.
07817 209258.

MAZDA 2
1.3TS 2008, 3 door, 1349cc, golden metallic, one owner from new, 51,000 miles, AC, FSH, excellent condition.
£4,195 ono.
07939 254041. 01785 282652.

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60 reg, white, FSH, one lady owner, 12 months MoT, immaculate, showroom condition inside and out, 11,000 miles only, £5,750.
07535 392478.

MAZDA 6 TS2 Diesel Estate, 2009, 87k, MoT Sept, met copper red, a/c, multi CD, a/w, cruise control, clean, tidy, £4,250 ono. 07941 112657.

MINI COOPER
2005, 55 Reg., 23,000 miles, blue/white, ABS, EW, air bag, alarm, long MoT, full manufacturers body kit, half leather.
£5,250.
01902 883122.

MINI HATCH COOPER
2005, 58,000 Miles, white, 12 months MoT, Chilli Pack, petrol, manual, very good condition.
£4,500 ono
07966180897

NISSAN MICRA SE
2003, 1.2 SE 5 Door 74,500 Miles, Blue Met. A/C, October 2015 MoT, New Timing Chain Fitted, Over £1000 spent recently.
£1,950 ono
07460 374249

PEUGEOT 207SW
57 reg, 1.4 petrol, 5dr, Lunar Mist, 42,200 miles, one owner, MoT and serviced until October 2015, FSH.
£3,795.
Contact: 07969 227792.

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI, 09 Reg, MoT, 86,500 miles, silver, £3,300 ono. 01922 409284.

VW GOLF 2013, TDI, blue/motion, 14,000 miles, white, good condition. £15,995
07969 558684.

VW POLO 1.2E 56 reg, red, 5-dr, 67k, PAS, CD, CL, park camera, MoT, history (just serviced, £3,200. 01384 258061. 07759 237779.

cars under £1500

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£1,100.
07803 259906.

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MAZDA 6 2004, petrol, FSH, 86k, MoT Aug 15, good condition, lady owner, £1,200 ono. 07927 402159 or 0121 520 3151.

NISSAN PRIMERA Saloon, 1.8 petrol, 2003, 74,000 miles, 12 months MoT, genuine reason for sale, £1,150. 01902 236623.

PEUGEOT 106 1.1L XL Independence, blue, MoT Sept 2015. Ideal first car. 1997, P reg, £395. 01902 655895 or 07785 130200.

PEUGEOT 206 Estate, 1.4, 90k, 05 reg, MoT, A/C, PAS, CD, 1 lady owner. Excellent condition. £1,275. 07429 999105.

PEUGEOT 206 STATION WAGON SXI
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07772 337190.

PEUGEOT 206 VERVE 1.4
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07850 113660.

PEUGEOT 306 LX, red, 1.4 petrol, MoT Feb 2015, 34k, good condition £450. Perton 07329 511813.

PEUGEOT 307 HDI DIESEL, (04), black, long MoT, fish. Beautiful condition, £1,250.
07867 68569.

ROVER 25 2004, MoT September 2015, 68,000 miles, new cambelt, good, good condition / runner. £600 ono. 07896 31251.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 02 reg, 1600cc, 67,500 miles, spares or repair. £350 ono.
07329 306712.

VW BEETLE 2.0, 2000, service history, green, new cam belt, MoT Feb, dent on sill, £700 ono. 01902 732193 or 07475 638786.

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9 Local Information

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01902 713146

or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal



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Box Number P19588, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



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Box Number P19580, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



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general

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JULIE loving, caring, honest, seeks real gent to share conversations and have a great time, friendship/relationship, who knows? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412777

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel No: 0905 002 1883 Box No: 413399

SALLY stunning lady looking for dinner dates, partying and generally having a good time with generous man looking for his mojo! No strings, go on call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412599

LUCY, 32yrs, blonde lady seeks naughty boys of any age for no strings fun. Tel No: 0905 002 1887 Box No: 413443

DEBS petite attractive auburn haired, good listener, romantic, enjoys socialising, cosy nights in with Mr Right, seeking similar caring N/S single dad. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412387

KAREN, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings fun with chap any age, must be discreet. Tel No: 0905 002 1891 Box No: 409593

JAN slim curvy professional warm, affectionate, looking to fill full time vacancy with similar male who loves cuddles/kisses and bikes for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412167

JANE, 40s, tall, blonde leggy lady, honest and keen to meet gent for fun times. I can make you happy! Tel No: 0905 002 1895 Box No: 361745

ATTRACTIVE slim brunette, 47, N/S, seeks tall, slim male for a cut above the average relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412725

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age, I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. Tel No: 0905 002 1937 Box 415301

KAREN pretty blonde, short in stature, big personality, keeps fit, loves dogs, seeking honest, caring male who can make me laugh. Nothing too serious just fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412377

SALLY, 38yrs, large cuddly lady seeks slim man for discreet meetings. Text Only 4550193

JEAN petite female who enjoys golf, days out, cosy evenings in, holidays, WLTM older male in his 60's with a good personality and big heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412359

TRUDY 36yrs, wltm broadminded men of any age/area for daytime meetings. Text Only 4550194

JULIE really fun loving slim pretty female 38 looking for nice guy to go out with, get to know and hopefully enjoy a relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411517

MELANIE, 38, slim, blonde and bored. Call if you want no strings fun. Text Only 4550198

GWENDOLINE honest, trustworthy, seeks caring gent who enjoys cinema, theatre, holidays and nights out for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412293

JENNI, 52 bored housewife wants no strings fun with younger chap. Text Only 4550197

DIANE voluptuous curvy and all woman, loves dancing, walking, cosy nights in, WLTM nice man for friendship, hopefully leading to something more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412321

SARA bored blonde looking for single gents for fun, chats and meets, looking forward to hearing from you, don't be shy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412055

EMMA petite young looking 31yr old attractive single brunette, loves walking, talking, music, seeks honest romantic 30-40yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412037

ANNABELL 29 slim sophisticated well travelled interesting sensual fit brunette with lots to offer seeks older man to appreciate and treat me well. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412177

KAREN slim, tall, attractive 36yr old normal female who likes shopping, socialising, nights in/out seeking thoughtful genuine male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412041

KIM 25yrs feminine, pretty, big blue eyes, GSOH, varied interests, likes romantic beach walks, cosy nights in, seeking honest loving man for fr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411777

CAROL young 47, caring, loyal, likes music, books, cinema, theatre, seeks male with similar interests for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411919

PROFESSIONAL black lady, likes cooking, music, countryside, seeking honest, reliable gent, possibly farmer for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411763

VICKY 37yr professional, mum to one, sensual and very attractive, looking for a real man, tall, fit, sincere and passionate to enjoy each other's company. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411695

LUCY beautiful busty bubbly blonde 32yrs, seeking naughty boy to enjoy the fun side of life with, age, status and looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411691

LINDA single and living alone, attractive, young looking, bubbly, WLTM similar young at heart companion to be close with, enjoy chats and romantic dates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410119

WIDOW 68, 5ft 5ins, medium build, attractive, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere, N/S male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411745

JEAN young at heart lady, active, 70 plus, N/S, GSOH, likes walks, gardening, outings, WLTM sincere, caring male, 60-74, for companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411711

TINA sexy black female looking for healthy distractions with fun adult companion, interested? You won't be disappointed, give me a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411519

LYNNE young looking attractive Indian female with GSOH and down to earth attitude, looking for likeminded male for date nights, hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411219

EMMIE 50, attractive brunette, 5ft 3ins, OHAC, likes country walks, music, reading, seeks genuine, friendly, professional male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411281

RETIREd happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459

RITA naughty 40's petite pretty female looking for that special man in my life, any age, to get to know and see what happens, you only live once remember! 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410959

SUE 34, likes most things in life, even football! Looking for my Mr Wonderful thought I would give this a try. Come on what do we have to loose, call me. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 4110765

CAROL slim attractive blonde, sporty, easy going, broadminded looking for likeminded male with plenty of va vooom, 35-45. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409717

SUSAN 64, lively, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411329

SUE 38, attractive broadminded attentive, enjoys meals in/out etc, not necessarily looking for Mr Right as Mr Wrong or even Mr Right now could be fun! Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411049

ANGIE attractive slim blonde just looking for a lovely spontaneous guy who like me just wants good company and a nice relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410641

KATHERINE 35yr old outgoing single female looking to enjoy dates with similar male also looking for fun times in or out. Age, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410565

PAULINE attractive divorced female with no ties, employed with my own home, likes nights in/out, lots of tic to give to the right person, call me for a chat, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411039

JEN attractive sensual petite blonde with OHAC seeks confident fit professional male to enjoy and share good times, if that's you pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410949

ARE you dark or bald, with hairy chest, well built, educated, verbal, articulate dom or sub, broadminded and ready to be put in your place? Curious to find out more? Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410637

29YR old black beautiful busty tall loving very sensual lady, likes football, making friends, seeking genuine white male for enjoyable loving relationship. Pls no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410577

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847

CAROL 38 attractive romantic not looking for fairy tales just happy endings, seeking lovely male to put the sparkle back into my life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410721

CLAIRE voluptuous tall feminine attractive lady who loves good company, fine wine/food, travel, WLTM tall professional for romance dates and hopeful fr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410627

LORRAINE 5ft 5ins, slim, 57, nurse, looking for someone to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410543

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MICHELLE 37, looking for laughter fun and romance with the right guy, if you could be here and have nothing to loose call me for a chat. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410415

TAYLOR 21 black beautiful classy intelligent, loves to have lots of fun and enjoy life to the full, seeking mature guy to make me happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409911

WENDY 50, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, likes music, meals out, seeks white male, 45-55 with similar interests and GSOH for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410496

72YR old Hereford lady, GSOH, young at heart, many interests, seeks caring, genuine gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410331

NICKY bubbly curvy fun blonde, varied interests, enjoys meals out, holidays, seeking N/S male with GSOH for possible fr. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410479

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys music, music, culture, WLTM more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easy going guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410461

LIZ 5ft 7ins, attractive, outgoing, likes walks, dogs, cooking, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410395

25 long haired sensual female, very naughty, broadminded and open, looking for similar fun guy for uncomplicated adult meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409719

JANE attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715

KIRSTY blonde blue eyed size 12 nurse, enjoys cosy nights, driving, holidays, socialising, WLTM broadminded male for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409259

JILL 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, good socialise, seeking like someone special. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411015

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 56, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409895

ELAINE attractive 39yr old blonde single mum seeking respectful male/dad with similar interests for adult friendship, hopefully leading to love. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410117

DONNA 27yrs blue eyed blonde with cute dimpled smile, loves socialising but looking for that special someone with GSOH to cuddle up with, enjoy fun/food times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409733

MARGARET OHAC, professional, sincere, adventurous, loving, kind, solvent lady who enjoys most things WLTM caring male with similar refined tastes. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407925

ATTRACTIVE 48yr old divorced lady, looking for honest, reliable man for LTR, 40-60. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409955

ABBA girl blonde lookalike, size 16, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent, refined, handsome guy with full head of hair, 5ft 9ins plus, professional and courteous. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409151

NEETA Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21yrs, loves to enjoy life, have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409101

MIXED raced lady, 34, widely travelled, seeking gent, 30-40 for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408429

68YR old lady, likes gardening, meals out, days out, looking for sincere gent to share time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408413

JENNY single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408285

CHRIS blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible fr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407615

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106

CAROL 36, looking for older experienced gent 50-70yrs for fun times only, discretion assured and expected. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401853

SUE attractive lonely brunette who loves being kissed and massaged. WLTM someone sincere to love and get close to, who not give me a call? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407021

CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, funny, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407609

ANNABELLA board attractive 30 something nurse wanting healing hands for no strings fun. No TLC required. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407446

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

KEVIN 53, looking for a friend/partner or a lover. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412869

JAMES, hard working single dad, late 30's seeks single mum for family days out. Text Only 4550196

NORTH Shropshire male, 67, N/S, solvent, GSOH, likes walks, travel, music, holidays, countryside, seeks N/S lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412867

KATH blonde independent female, employed with OHAC looking for fun and laughter with likeminded nice easy going male, any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407955

TRACY slim dark haired beauty, petite, hardworking career, enjoys dancing, nights out, WLTM loving male who can make me laugh for an adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409419

SHARON very attractive British black lady, sexy size 6 looking for white male to fall in love with. Beautiful people can be lonely too. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409263

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109

ANITA very attractive black female, seeking mature white/Asian man to enjoy uncomplicated relationship with no ties. Any age, pls contact me. I'm very lonely. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408505

Hi I'm Pam, cuddly, attractive, self-sufficient, employed, looking for similar young looking, sincere male for hopeful fr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407933

FEMALE many interests, seeks male, 40-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408537

28YR old female, seeking male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408639

MALCOLM 61, smoker, great personality, likes coach holidays, drives, pubs, meals out, nights out, 60's music, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412523

TONY 52, dark hair, white male, 6ft, confident, GSOH, seeks black female. Genuine ad. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412481

TALL 42yr old sincere male, caring, honest, loving, seeking female, 30-40 for fun, friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412483

COUNTRY loving businessman, honest, medium build, N/S, OHAC, seeks professional, genuine, caring, honest, N/S female for loving relationship, 45-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412445

ALAN tall widower, 76, looking for female of similar age who enjoys meals out, holidays, walks and holidays. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412261

ROY mid 60's, N/S, car driver, young outlook, seeks lady for friendship. West Bromwich area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412083

TALL slim gent, 60, seeks slim, attractive lady for no strings relationship. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412227

IAN 65, romantic, likes to wine/dine, days out, seeks younger female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412087

MARK fun loving, easy going, fair hair blue eyes, athletic, tanned, looking for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411989

FIT bubbly male, athletic, blue eyes, short fair hair, easy going, loving, GSOH, seeking female for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411901

TALL attractive Shrewsbury male, 54, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement in the daytime. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411823

TIGER Woods lookalike, seeking pretty BBW for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411801

MALE 74, fit, N/S, OHAC, seeks slim lady of similar age for days out, holidays and walks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411673

PHIL genuine male, 57, OHAC, looking for female, any race, status and age for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411461

DEE 49, divorced, handsome, fit, slim, seeks lady, any age for lasting, meaningful relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411415

MARK 5ft 11ins, blond hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, athletic, likes nights in/out, socialising, meals out, pubs, seeks female with similar interests and GSOH for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411335

JOHN, 42yrs professional genuine gent seeks caring lady to treat as a princess. Text Only 4550195

MAURICE gentleman, 59, gentle, kind, caring, loving, genes, seeks lady with GSOH and similar personality, slim-medium build. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412859

MALE seeking female companion for outings, friendship and holidays. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412705

STEPHEN 58, good looking, likes art, travel, seeking female, 50 plus for companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412633

5FT 6ins male, dark hair/eyes, glasses, likes meals out, seeks female for friendship, romance, maybe more. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411455

IAN 47, 5ft 11ins, likes cinema, nights in/out, sports, socialising, GSOH seeking similar female. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411297

ATTRACTIVE male, seeks 100% adult fun with woman, any age/looks or status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411253

MALE WLTM pear shaped lady, 50-65. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411109

PAUL 62, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411099

TRUSTWORTHY fit, active, caring, easy going male, N/S, 68, GSOH, seeks genuine lady, 59-72 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411083

TOM 31, seeking female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411165

ADVENTUROUS

Giles is winner of run in Cotswolds

STOURBRIDGE Running Club had three runners from the club competing in the Cotswolds' Broadway Marathon.

Starting and finishing in the scenic Broadway village, the 26-mile route followed a trail or un-paved track.

Matt Giles won the race with a fantastic time of 3:23.40.

He was closely followed by team mate Garry Griffiths who finished in fifth place with a time of 3:42.25 and Duncan Cornish (16th) 4:07.06.

In the recent Droitwich Half Marathon we had two runners from the club who competed.

Chris Blake finished 18th place with a time of 1:26.51 and Paul Bradley finished 144th with a time of 1:48.17. Also, the cross country season is well under way.

A recent race at Midland Counties Cross Country - held at Aldersley, Wolverhampton, resulted in the ladies team getting eighth place and the men's team 16th place. Joan Clarke took the lead for the ladies running five miles and finished in 32nd place, while the men who ran seven miles were headed up by Duncan Cornish. The next race is in Aldridge on December 6.

Lions brought back down to earth

Bridgnorth 54 Stourbridge Lions 11
THE Lions travelled to Bridgnorth on Saturday with several key players missing, especially in the pack and lost 54-11.

There was no man of the match this time; it was a team effort that, before half-time, saw the Lions competing on level terms and at one stage even leading, causing the home side and their fans a great deal of concern.

The second half saw the Lions fade as many of the players tired under constant pressure.

Bridgnorth are the stand-out team in the league. They will, barring a fall-off in per-

Rugby

formance of earth-shattering proportions, be promoted very soon after Christmas.

This makes the first half efforts of a weakened Lions all the more praiseworthy.

Though they conceded four tries in the first half they scored one of their own. One of the best they have scored all season with a sweeping move from just outside the Lions 22 with a break by the half backs Williams and Wilson carried on by Dews and a pass to send Chance on a thrilling 50 metre

sprint down the left touchline for a great try. Until the last five minutes of the half Lions were actually in contention, a couple of Wilson penalties at one point seeing the Lions 11-10 ahead.

Driving play by the forwards caused obvious frustration in the home ranks and it was only two mistakes, one a series of missed tackles down the Lions right and the other a ball mysteriously lost at the back of a ruck which saw Bridgnorth ahead by 20-11 at half-time.

The start of the second half saw a tiring Lions subjected to massive pressure. The

third quarter resulted in three tries and a conversion to leave the Lions, battered, bruised but unbowed, 37-11 down.

Bridgnorth kept up the pressure and three more tries and a conversion saw them move further away.

A comprehensive defeat then, but one from which the Lions can take great heart. Although this was a team effort there must still be special mention of a few.

A young, relatively inexperienced front row gave as good as they got in both scrum and around the field.

Matt Poole had a fine game.

Irvine is to quiz player on tweet

ALBION boss Alan Irvine insists Youssef Mulumbu will be back after the out-of-form midfielder was dropped from the Baggies squad for Saturday's defeat at Chelsea.

Irvine is planning to speak to Mulumbu over a cryptic pre-match tweet which appeared to poke fun at the decision to leave him out of the 18-man squad.

But the Hawthorns head coach, who also defended the decision to leave Silvestre Varela and Sebastian Blanco off the bench, believes Mulumbu will recapture his missing form.

"I thought he started the season really well," said Irvine.

"He was absolutely terrific and then unfortunately he got a hamstring injury while away on international duty and that's knocked him back a bit.

"I've got every faith that Youssef will come again. He hasn't played so well since he came back from the injury but at the beginning of the season he was one of the first names on the team sheet."

Mulumbu raised eyebrows by tweeting "In the stand loool..."

And Irvine is planning to ask him about his reaction.

Stour breathe sigh of relief at missed kick

Birmingham & Solihull 23 Stourbridge 25
BEES looked set to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat, but Adam Canning's 79th minute, long-range penalty try fell short.

On a sticky surface the game swung between kicking contest and forward slugfest. Stour's key man, fullback Caolan Ryan, who was solid under the high ball, cleared his lines effectively and coolly slotted four kicks at goal.

Stour's injury woes were back with a vengeance though, both lock forwards Ben Hughes and Robbie Hurrell failing to finish the game.

An early penalty opportunity was landed by Ryan, but Canning hit back twice to give the hosts a 6-3 lead after 20min as both sides probed the other's defences.

Nathan Bressington forced a lineout from which the visitors executed a neat catch and drive, Sione Tu'ipolotu the man to score from short range.

Stour hit straight back from the restart, working the ball through the phases before a wide pass found Hurrell one-on-one against a significantly smaller defender, he smashed through to score and Ryan converted.

With Bees opting to hoist a flurry of high balls, the match then drifted until Canning slotted a third successful penalty attempt just on half time.

He failed to find the target though with an early second half attempt, but redeemed himself with a nicely taken individual try when he seemed to leave the entire Stour shortside defence wrongfooted in the mud.

Rugby

Running rugby became increasingly difficult as bodies tired and the playing surface started to deteriorate. Ryan had two further penalty attempts that he was unable to land.

A huge return punt by Bressington forced a line-out on the Bees' 22, Stour executed another catch and drive that saw captain Nigel Mukarati score from short range..

Bees dug deep, worked their way down field and returned the compliment with a catch and drive of their own through No.8 Steve Leach. Canning converted.

The lead lasted barely three minutes though, Ryan responding with a penalty.

Following an injury stoppage Stour secured their own ball near their 10metre line, but were bemused to find veteran Sturdy again penalised for not driving straight against a tighthead offering little by way of resistance.

With the clock ticking down Canning kicked at the posts, but it fell just short.

This Saturday Stour host Preston Grasshoppers, kick-off 3pm.



Lock forward Robbie Hurrell crosses to score Stourbridge's second try before going off injured

Certainly not Nirvana for Gornal

Thurnby Nirvana 4 Gornal 1

GORNAL'S hopes of a good FA Vase run vanished as they lost 4-1 to inform Union Counties side Thurnby Nirvana.

Despite a promising start, Athletic found themselves a goal down on eight minutes when Eddy Samba beat keeper Rich Kennedy at the second attempt.

Gornal's Tim Piggott spurned a great chance to equalise before Thurnby doubled their lead on 31 minutes through Ashley Day.

The hosts made the game safe on 65 minutes through Reece Moore. Matt Melbourne then celebrated Thurnby's fourth before Geoff Hill's consolation.

DK women are out of the running

DUDLEY Kingswinford Running Club ran at the Midlands Counties Cross Country Open Meeting at Wolverhampton & Bilston's Aldersley Stadium.

In the women's event over a five mile course, Sally McConville took 55th place with 48.03, Lisa Newell was 61st in 49.20 and Meg Downen finished in 51.44 for 64th position.

Unfortunately with four runners needed to score they were unable to record a team position as other members dropped out due to injury. In the team event Tipton Harriers won Wolverhampton & Bilston took silver and Northbrook AC bronze. In the men's seven mile event Ben Foster was 13th in 42.04.

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SPORT

Lions lose
Squad reach a
Bridgnorth too far
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Miss kick
Stour hold on until
last minute for win
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Visting Yeltz in Trafford shutout

Trafford 0 Halesowen 2
A professional performance gave Halesowen all three points in Manchester.

The opening chance came from Halesowen, as Danny Bragoli picked up the ball from the edge of the area, and smashed the ball towards goal, but Dan Wilczynski made a brilliant save to deny him.

Trafford had their chances as well in the first half, as captain forced Matt Sargeant into making a good save, and Mile Oates created a chance for himself but he could only blast the ball over the bar.

The Yeltz took the lead on 65 minutes, as Iyseden Christie slotted the ball through the Trafford defence to Kristian Green, who placed the ball into the net with power.

Halesowen doubled their lead in the final moments of the game, as Robert Thompson Brown made an individual run and ended it with comfortably placing the ball into the net.

The Yeltz move up the table once again, as their progress moves them up to 15th.

Halesowen: Sargeant, Green, Griffiths, Forde, Hull, Tilt, Kettle (Tonks), Bragoli (Mackenzie), Christie, Haseley (Thompson-Brown), Turner. Unused Subs: Robinson, Lait

Letford goal is a winner

Dudley Sports 2 W-ton Casuals 1

TWO second-half goals in the space of five minutes earned Dudley Sports victory over Wolverhampton Casuals.

In a scrappy West Midlands Premier game, Casuals went ahead in the 23rd minute when Daniel Westwood headed down an Angelo Franco cross for Scott Embrey to score from eight yards.

Just before the goal Lewis Cooper made a great run in to the Sports area only to see his shot well saved by Sports keeper Dominic Richards.

Sports equalised in the 79th minute when Oliver Staten volleyed a Luke Williams corner past Casuals goalkeeper Steve Booth.

And the hosts' second goal came from Jonathan Letford when his effort went under Booth's body.

Jackett is looking to strengthen defence

Football

KENNY JACKETT will scour the loan market this week in a bid to shore up Wolves' dodgy defence – but insists outcast Roger Johnson has not crossed his mind as a solution.

After Saturday's 3-0 home defeat to Nottingham Forest made it eight goals conceded in two games, boss Jackett is weighing up defensive reinforcement options.

The emergency loan window closes on Thursday and the head coach is far more likely to go down that route than consider offering an olive branch to Johnson.

Jackett said: "That (Johnson) is not

something I have considered and I am very unlikely to think about that.

"We can do better internally. But you are always looking at the loan deadline on Thursday and then the January window to be able to turn things around if you need that option.

"It depends on who is available and what calibre of player you can bring in at present.

"But we do need to find an equation at the back that stops these goals going in

because we have gone from a very compact unit and being defensively very stringent to conceding some very poor goals."

Jackett insists the whole team must carry the can for the recent defensive woes – and wants more from his attackers too.

He added: "That's 10 goals against in three games, which is poor, and then only one scored – that's a big swing and it's something we need to address quickly."

"It's not a one-off situation now – we've conceded a lot of goals and I can't really look at my goalkeeper either in that period.

"As both a defence and as a team we need

to defend better and then going the other way we need to be a threat too."

Ethan Ebanks-Landell limped off with a hamstring problem against Forest and is a doubt for Saturday's trip to Brentford, but Scott Golbourne and Nouha Dicko could return.

Dicko faces a fight to regain his place after Jackett was impressed by Sunderland loan man Danny Graham's debut on Saturday.

Jackett added: "Danny worked very hard and I think he will get better with every game in terms of his fitness."

Tividale keep up the wins

Rainworth 1 Tividale 2

TIVIDALE continued their impressive away record with their fourth win on the road in a last-gasp success over Rainworth.

The first half was summed up with the fact neither keeper had a shot to save as both teams failed to create anything. The only incident of note was Rainworth skipper Emeka Nwadike having to go off with a cut under his eye.

Rainworth had the first effort on goal at the start of the second period when Charlie Price had to touch over a dipping free-kick from Theo Brown on 47 minutes.

That was the end of the action until the introduction of new Tividale signing Roland Agbor on the hour.

On 83 minutes he brilliantly back-heeled home a Danny Ashton cross to break the deadlock.

And in the second minute of injury time Agbor's right-wing cross was headed home at the back post by Leigh Downing.

Rainworth did get on the score sheet in the fifth minute of injury time when Brown made no mistake.

Freddie is back as Wolves rider

SPEEDWAY ace Freddie Lindgren set his sights on the play-offs after sealing a return to Wolves.

The popular 29-year-old Swede's return to Monmore, following a year away, was confirmed on Monday at the club's winter talk-in with fans. Lindgren first raced for Wolves in 2003 as a 17-year-old.

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BUMPER CROWD ENJOY VICTORY

Stourbridge 2 FC Utd Manchester 1

The first meeting between these two saw Stourbridge deservedly end on top in front of a bumper crowd of 1,444.

It was the first four-figure crowd for a league fixture at the War Memorial ground since February 1991, when 1,003 saw Stour beat Tamworth 2-0.

The Glassboys had to weather some early pressure but were strong at the back and looked dangerous on the break.

Early on there were few chances to get on the scoreboard, however, Craig Lindfield went closest for the visitors when he sent a shot wide of the mark.

But on 27 minutes Stourbridge took hold of the game and grabbed the lead when George Bowerman ran down the left and then put the ball inside for Kayelden Brown who shot into the corner of the net.

Effort

Kristian Ramsey-Dickson had an effort ruled out for offside on 33 minutes but six minutes later he picked up a flick-on from a goal kick and produced a great finish to make it 2-0.

Former Ajax youngster Frank Van Gils should have got one back for United just before the break when he headed wide in front of an open goal.

But Stourbridge almost scored with a header of their own into the second half when Paul McCone got on the end of a Bowerman cross but missed the target. Inevitably the visitors put

Football

pressure on as the half progressed. And it was on 70 minutes that Stourbridge goalkeeper Dean Coleman produced an excellent save from a Greg Daniels shot that to all intents and purposes was heading for the top corner for a score.

FC United did get a goal back nine minutes from time when Van Gils skipped past two defenders on the edge of the box and crossed low for Thomas Greaves.

Greaves, who was making his 100th appearance for FC United, made no mistake with his finishing and set up a nail-biting few final few minutes for the Glassboys.

The result lifts Stourbridge up two places to be in 11th place in the Evo-Stik Premier Division, just four points off the play-off places and with matches in hand on all the teams above them.

Stourbridge: Coleman; Fitzpatrick; Ramsey-Dickson; Boson; McCone; Till (Morgan-Parker 84); Brown (Smikle 65); Haynes; Geohagon; Bowerman (Broadhurst 82); Canavan; Knight.

Subs not used: McPike; Hill



Kristian Ramsey-Dickson celebrates after slotting home the second Stourbridge goal. Picture Will Kilpatrick

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